MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 December 1981

Libyan Airliner Hijacking

The hijackers of a Libyan Boeing 727 surrendered at Beirut airport to Col Muhammad Ghanim, intelligence chief of the Syrian Arab Deterrent Force, and to Nabih Birri, secretary general of the Shi'ite Amal Movement, AFP reported.

After refueling in Tehran, the aircraft had returned for the third time to Beirut, where it landed despite the fact that Lebanese authorities had closed the airport, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. It added that, before landing, the hijackers told the airport control tower that their operation was finished and that they would not harm the passengers. They demanded that Lebanese and Syrian officials come to the airport to verify that the passengers and crew had not been ill treated.

Iran

Tehran radio broadcast a statement issued by the revolution prosecutor's office that warned against "counterrevolutionaries, hooligans and corrupt individuals" who have illegally entered premises to commit armed robbery "disguised" as revolution guards or as members of local revolution committees. Asserting that those dressed as security forces and bearing arms have no automatic right to enter people's houses, the statement called on people to inform the authorities of violations and said guards and revolution committee members should arrest the culprits. The radio likewise broadcast a letter from the state Inspectorate General to Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi and to the Revolution Guards Corps Command, urging the corps to refrain from taking "rash action" and from interfering in judicial and executive affairs beyond its jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, Tehran radio reported that Mojahedin-e Khalq guerrillas assassinated an education official in Hamadan.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iranian Armed Forces communique broadcast by Tehran radio reported that Iranian fighters downed an Iraqi plane near Ahvaz. It also noted that Iraqi aircraft bombed Ilam, causing a number of deaths and injuries. INA carried an Iraqi military spokesman's statement on the recent fighting in the Susangerd region, asserting that Iraqi troops thwarted the Iranian attempt to reach Iraq's borders. Iraqi troops are still holding their positions in the 11-km corridor through which the Iranians had planned to advance, the statement said, while the Iranians were able to hold only Bostan and 2 km of the corridor. Charging that the Iranians used 15- and 16-year-old youths in their offensive, it said that in the fierce battles between 29 November and 5 December Iranian losses included 6,500 troops killed, 11 fighter planes and 262 tanks, while the Iraqis suffered 605 fatalities and lost 81 tanks and 2 fighter aircraft.

Iraq

INA reported that following a visit by a Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation, the Iraqi National Assembly and the Supreme Soviet issued a joint statement asserting their mutual desire to strengthen Iraqi-Soviet relations on the basis of the 1972 friendship and cooperation treaty. The statement said both sides expressed deep satisfaction with the results of their friendly talks.

OPEC, OAPEC Affairs

OPEC Meeting -- Speaking to reporters in Abu Dhabi at the beginning of an OPEC oil ministers conference, Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said OPEC's base oil price will remain frozen at $34 a barrel until the end of 1982, regardless of changes in the value of the dollar, SPA reported. WAKH reports noted that during the first session of the conference, ministers elected a new ministerial council chairman, UAE Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, and approved the conference agenda. WAM reported that at the second session, the ministers began studying a report on oil price differentials.

OAPEC Dispute -- Tunis radio reported that Tunisia has asked Libya to clarify its attitude toward Tunisia's application to join OAPEC. The Libyan position has surprised Tunisian observers, the radio said, especially because relations between the two countries had been rapidly improving of late. Earlier, WAKH reported that Libyan Oil Minister 'Abd as-Salam az-Zaq'ar denied that Libya objects to Tunisian membership of OAPEC, asserting that Libya merely wants time to study the Tunisian application.

Lebanon

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that Israeli and Christian militia forces bombarded the southern village of Yatar. The radio also said an Israeli commando unit infiltrated the village and blew up a house.

Egypt

Noting that the latest round of autonomy talks would start in Tel Aviv on 10 December, Cairo radio called on the United States to take more interest in the current negotiations and appoint the head of its delegation to them. The radio also urged Israel to stop its "repressive measures" in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Israel

In an interview broadcast by Jerusalem television, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon asserted that the government will not reconsider its new policy on the West Bank, although he admitted that recent unrest there is mainly the result of that policy. He said any new policy must be tested over a long period of time, adding that current efforts are concentrated on strengthening those who regard the "terrorist organizations" as the real threat. Sharon also denied that the government is dragging its feet over negotiations with settlers in the Sinai in order to impress the world with its difficulties in implementing the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. Terming such speculation groundless, Sharon said the government will honor the peace treaty.

Gulf Affairs

WAKH reported that Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky left for home after a 1-day official visit to Doha at the end of a tour of the Gulf region. It said talks during the visit focused on the Palestinian question.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 237 *10 December 1981*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO: France Must Clarify Cheysson's Statements [VOP] A 1
VOP Equates French With U.S., Israeli Policy A 1
Libyan Oil Minister Welcomes Tunisia to OAPEC [WAKH] A 2
Libya Asked To Clarify Position on Tunisia [Tunis] A 2
UAE Paper: Iraq, Libya To Resume Relations [QNA] A 2

OPEC AFFAIRS

Yamani: OPEC To Maintain $34 Until End of 1982 [Riyadh SPA] B 1
AFP Cites Sources on OPEC Oil Prices, Supplies B 1
UAE Oil Minister Elected OPEC Chairman [WAKH] B 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Press Statement Issued on Juan Carlos' Visit C 1

KUWAIT

AL-QABAS Scores French Policy on Israel C 1

OMAN

Reported Violation of PDRY Territory Denied C 2
Briefs: Gas Pipeline; Omani-Japanese Agreement C 2

QATAR

Austria's Kreisky Arrives in Doha 9 Dec C 2
Talks Begin C 2
Press Statement Issued C 3
Visit Ends C 3

UAE

'Arafat Meets U.S. Congressman in Abu Dhabi C 3
'Arafat, Kreisky, President Hold Meetings [VOP] C 4
Kreisky, 'Arafat Comment on Abu Dhabi Talks [Vienna] C 5
Kreisky Holds Press Conference in Abu Dhabi C 6
'Arafat Comments on Talks With President C 7

PDRY

Foreign Minister Reports on Visit to France C 7
Envoy Returns to Aden Following Visit to YAR C 8

EGYPT

AL-AHRAM Notes Cheysson Statement on EC Plan D 1
Commentator on Cheysson Remarks, Autonomy D 1
AL-AHRAM Commentary on EC Plan, Camp David D 2
AL-AHRAM Reports on Mubarak Talks to NDP Body [6 Dec] D 3
Cairo Announces Haig To Meet With Hasan 'Ali D 5
Opposition Front Issues Statement Urging Changes D 5
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Dec]
Briefs: Mubarak Receives Ambassadors' Credentials; Mubarak Receives Ambassadors' Credentials D 5

IRAQ

Armed Forces General Command Communique 547 E 1
Saddam Husayn Receives Romanian Official E 1
Assembly, Soviet Presidium Issue Statement E 2

JORDAN

Dailies Respond to French Official Statement F 1

LEBANON

Major Haddad Discusses Current Topics 8 Dec G 1
Sarkis Discusses Visits by U.S., USSR Envoys G 2
AFP: Hijackers of Libyan Plane Surrender G 2

SYRIA

Foreign Ministry Issues Human Rights Statement H 1
Al-Asad To Visit Moscow, Ask for Strategic Pact H 2
[Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' 10 Dec]
Economic Cooperation Accord Signed With Libya H 2
Libyan Official Leaves H 2
Khaddam Meets Libya's Jallud on Airport Arrival H 2

ISRAEL

Egypt May Apply 'Pressure' If Talks Fail I 1
Defense Minister Departs for United Kingdom I 1
Sharon Interviewed on Current Strategic Issues I 1
Sharon Comments on Territories, Soviet Threat I 5
Sharon on Possible U.S. Intervention in Syria I 6
['AL HAMISHMAR 9 Dec]
Radio Reports Situation in Gaza, West Bank I 6
Begin To Be Released From Hospital 'This Week' I 7
Condition Described [HA'ARETZ 10 Dec] I 7
Peres Foresees Saudi Arabia Making Peace I 7
Egyptian Embassy Official on Saudi Peace Plan [DAVAR 9 Dec] I 8
HA'ARETZ Commentary by Arens on Strategic Accord [9 Dec] I 8
African Countries Announce Change in Attitude [MA'ARIV 9 Dec] I 10
France Aids Efforts I 11
Political Circles Evaluate Cheysson's Visit I 11
POST Details Shamir-Cheysson Agreements [10 Dec] I 12
POST: Circles Feel French Policy Not New [10 Dec] I 13
HA'ARETZ Editorial on French Attitudes [9 Dec] I 14
MA'ARIV Commentator Criticizes Habib Mission [8 Dec] I 15
Papers on Arms Deals, Habib Mission, Druze I 16
Arms Exports Reportedly Up By 33 Percent I 17
Briefs: Telecommunications Cooperation With Canada I 17

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Reportage on African-Arab Conference in Luanda P 1
Mengistu Message [ANGOP] P 1
'Arafat Greeting [Luanda] P 1
Al-Qadhdhafi Support [Luanda] P 2
JANA Report P 2
Conference Declaration [AFP] P 2
OAU Secretary General Comments on Chad Situation [Cotonou] P 3
Lome Statement [AFP] P 4
OAU Committee Urges Aid for Liberation Movements [Dar es Salaam] P 4

NORTH AFRICA

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Letters From Leaders Q 1
Papandreou Letter Q 1
Malagasy President's Message Q 1

MAURITANIA

Support Expressed for Eritrean People's Front Q 1

SUDAN

Terrorists Trained for Operation Against Libya Q 2
Ministry Says Embassies Being Threatened Q 2
SUNA Report Q 2
Numayri Relieves Abu al-Qasim Hasim of Posts Q 2

CENTRAL AFRICA

CHAD

Koumakoye: Egypt, Sudan Pledge Not To Aid FAN [AFP] S 1
Nigerians Arrive; Operational Zones Given [AFP] S 1
DC-3 Provided by France Arrives in Ndjamena S 2
AFP Says Situation in East Worrying Government S 2

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Government Announces Cabinet Reshuffle 7 Dec S 3
Further Report S 6

WEST AFRICA

CAPE VERDE

Pereira, Portugal's Eanes Hold Meeting [Lisbon] T 1
Defense Minister Leaves on Visit to SFRY [AFP] T 1

GHANA

President Limann Receives PRC's Huang Hua T 1
Cultural Agreement Signed T 2
GRAPHIC Comments T 2
Defense Minister Reminds Military of Role T 2

NIGERIA

Shagari Discusses Chad Force, Succession Issue T 3
PRC's Huang Hua Stops in Lagos En Route Home T 3
Party Leaders See Need for Political Realignment T 4
Armored Commander Pleased at Peace in Kano T 4

SENEGAL

Senegal Refuses To Recognize Ciskei Independence [AFP] T 5
People's Party Granted Legal Recognition [AFP] T 5

TOGO

Sources Deny Country Favors Habre in Chad [AFP] T 5

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Foreign Minister Issues Warning to South Africa [AFP] U 1

PLO: FRANCE MUST CLARIFY CHEYSSON'S STATEMENTS

NC100837 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] An official information source in the PLO has said: news agencies have reported statements attributed to French External Relations Minister Cheysson during his recent visit to Israel. His statements included negative stands regarding important and serious subjects that concern our Palestinian people, which infringe upon their just question and our pan-Arab cause. These statements constitute a departure from the previous stands of the European Community and of France in particular.

The source added: The PLO regards the French minister's statements as a serious stand and a new turning point that demands that our Arab nation appraise it and confront its serious negative consequences. The PLO expresses surprise at such statements by Cheysson who, during his visit to the Arab countries, made declarations that were totally different from these statements. The source said the PLO awaits an urgent clarification from the French Government and a stand from the friendly French people.

VOP EQUATES FRENCH WITH U.S., ISRAELI POLICY

JN091908 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1807 GMT 9 Dec 81

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] The visit by Claude Cheysson, French external relations minister, to the Zionist entity -- which ended yesterday -- was more than an ordinary visit. Indeed, this visit shed light on Socialist President Francois Mitterand's foreign policy in the region. The outcome of the visit can be summarized as follows, as Cheysson himself did in press statements in occupied Palestine:

1. Complete French support for the Camp David accords.

2. French retraction of the Venice declaration and the European initiative, as proved by the French external relations minister's statement to the effect that neither France nor Europe are entitled to propose a plan or an initiative in the Middle East.

3. The improvement of Franco-Israeli relations and the readiness of Mitterrand's government to resume selling French arms to the Zionist entity. In this regard, the French external relations minister declared that there is no reason why French arms should not be sold to Israel.

These results achieved more for Begin's government than it ever dreamed of last June, when the enemy's prime minister attacked former French President d'Estaing, describing the French foreign policy as a commercial transaction. The outcome of Cheysson's visit to Israel puts French policy face to face with many contradictions. Indeed, the Socialist government has alleged -- ever since it assumed power in France -- that it is concerned about human principles and that it has a clear one-faced policy. In reality, the one face of Mitterrand's France is closer to the U.S. imperialist face and conforms more with the Zionist entity's plans and expansionist policy of occupation in the occupied territory.

We are surprised that Cheysson defended human rights as he stood alongside terrorist Shamir and as Zionist forces fire at the Palestinian masses in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank.

Claude Cheysson did not mention the blowing up of houses. Nor did he mention the closure of Bi'r Zayt University; the suspension of newspapers; and the imprisonment of hundreds of the sons of the Palestinian people during the present popular uprising.

This new tone in France's foreign policy reminds us of the vast difference between the France of principles, De Gaulle's France and the present France, which seeks to play the role of partner to U.S. policy -- which is hostile to Third World peoples in this and other regions.

LIBYAN OIL MINISTER WELCOMES TUNISIA TO OAPEC

GF091631 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Dec (WAKH) -- Libyan Oil Minister 'Abd as-Salam az-Zaq'ar welcomes Tunisia's membership in OAPEC. In a statement to GULF NEWS AGENCY, he said: We do not object to Tunisia's membership, we merely said we were studying Tunisia's application. We have not rejected it so far, and we will never do so in the future.

Mr az-Zaq'ar denied that the continental shelf between Libya and Tunisia is the reason for Libyan opposition to Tunisian membership in OAPEC. He added: The shelf is insignificant, because the Tunisian people are the closest to us.

He added: This is supported by the fact that there are joint projects between us and labor forces working in both countries. All we ask for is time to study the issue. He went on to say: No country can join the organization, whether Tunisia or another, prior to the adoption of due legal process.

Regarding Libya's veto at the OAPEC meeting, he said: The right to veto was introduced owing to certain circumstances. However, he added, when these circumstances end we believe we must then decide if it is necessary to maintain it.

LIBYA ASKED TO CLARIFY POSITION ON TUNISIA

LD100944 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] A Tunisian note has been conveyed to the Libyan authorities requesting clarification regarding the Libyan authorities' position vis-a-vis Tunisia's application to join OAPEC. The Libyan position surprised observers in Tunisia, particularly because relations between the two countries have been rapidly improving, especially in economic fields, which have witnessed new momentum following the exchange of visits between the Tunisian minister of national economy, Abdelaziz Lasram, and his Libyan colleague, Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah. At any rate since the beginning of talks on this application, no statement has been issued by the Libyan side indicating that it intended to object to it or expressing any reservations, especially since Tunisia's joining OAPEC is apt to consolidate the joint Arab action that various Arab meetings have called for and which was approved by the Amman Summit conference.

UAE PAPER: IRAQ, LIBYA TO RESUME RELATIONS

GF271527 Doha QNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 27 Nov 81

[Text] Dubayy, 27 Nov (QNA) -- Quoting Iraqi sources described as official, press reports here today anticipate the resumption of Libyan-Iraqi diplomatic relations during the next few days. The UAE newspaper AL-BAYAN quotes Libyan "foreign relations secretary" 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi as lauding Iraq's national stand. It is known that relations between the two countries were severed by Iraq in protest of Libya's support for Iran.

YAMANI: OPEC TO MAINTAIN $34 UNTIL END OF 1982

LD091344 Riyadh SPA in English 1235 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Dec (SPA) -- Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said today that OPEC would keep its base oil price frozen at 34 dollars a barrel until the end of 1982, no matter what happened to the value of the dollars.

Speaking to reporters as OPEC oil ministers began their conference here to consider a new set of price differentials, Shaykh Yamani noted the level of oil production of exporting countries will remain unaffected with the oil pricing policy.

AFP CITES SOURCES ON OPEC OIL PRICES, SUPPLIES

NC091930 Paris AFP in English 1629 GMT 9 Dec 81

[By Hugh Dent]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Dec (AFP) -- The grim oil market situation facing OPEC was highlighted here today as ministers continued a conference to examine possible cuts in oil-price premiums and consider long-term strategy.

An informed Japanese oil company source said that despite an estimated stock reduction of some three million barrels a day by leading consuming countries, influential oil customers expected the glut to last until the end of next year.

The source [words indistinct] that some industry experts were even forecasting that the free market "spot" price for Arabian light would fall below 30 dollars a barrel next year.

The base price set by the Organisation of Petrolem Exporting Countries (OPEC) and frozen until the end of 1982 is 34 dollars a barrel, and the source said the current spot price is 34 dollars 10 cents.

But he said that the stock situation was fluctuating and that by early next year it would become clear that the market was still weak.

During crisis talks in the summer to end price anarchy with a reunified 34 dollar price, Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani commented that the true price under the glut then obtaining should have been 28 dollars on an historic basis.

But Shaykh Yamani has since forecast that the glut will end by the spring or early summer, with prices firming as the market comes into balance.

Meanwhile, sources close to the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) said that an agency report to be published tomorrow would show that total stock drawdowns, including stocks held at sea and in non-IEA countries, were running at an average of 2.6 million barrels a day in the last quarter of this year.

Oil was being pumped from tankers into land-based stocks which were running down at the rate of 1.4 million barrels a day. The source said that this was abnormally high and was expected to continue until next spring. But they noted that inventories in member states of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on October 1 totalled 460.5 million tons or the equivalent of 101 days' supply. In Januayr land-based stocks will still total 433 million tons or 96 days' supply, the sources forecast.

UAE OIL MINISTER ELECTED OPEC CHAIRMAN

GF091616 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1004 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Dec (WAKH) -- Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, was elected chairman of the current OPEC ministerial council session during this morning's closed meeting. Dr al-'Utaybah succeeds Professor Subroto, Indonesian minister of mining and energy, whose chairmanship of the organization has ended.

BAHRAIN

PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED ON JUAN CARLOS' VISIT

GE091706 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Manama, 9 Dec (WAKH) -- In a press statement issued here today following the conclusion of Spanish King Juan Carlos' 3-day visit to Bahrain, Spain affirmed that the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East lies in granting the Palestinian people their full and legitimate rights of self-determination.

The statement says that Spain welcomes the formation of the Gulf Cooperation Council because it is a significant event in the Middle East and is a constructive element in regional cooperation.

Furthermore, the statement notes that both Bahrain and Spain have agreed to exchange visits among their officials in order to deepen their developing relations. In this respect, they have agreed that a special Spanish delegation will visit Bahrain in early 1982 to continue the discussion on economic and cultural issues.

KUWAIT

AL-QABAS SCORES FRENCH POLICY ON ISRAEL

LD091306 Kuwait KUNA in English 1119 GMT 9 Dec 81

["AL-Qabas on the French Policy" -- KUNA headline]

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Dec (KUNA) -- French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson likes to describe himself as "the man of the suicidal missions." True, he has always lived in places very short in distance from the volatile spots in the world. Sometimes within the boundaries of these spots.

"Nevertheless, the price of Cheysson's life and freedom was not worth, during World War II, except a handful of phosphate, at least from the viewpoint of the Germans who captured him then set him free for his low price.

"Cheysson, who attained his freedom from the Nazi captivity, is still captive to the "neo-nazism," meaning Zionism and its contemporary Hitler Menahem Begin. This new nazism is more bitter and more cunning than the Nazism of Hitler.

"The pro-Israeli statements of Cheysson and the forthcoming visit to this Jewish state by President Mitterrand do not constitute a great surprise to the Arabs. Historically speaking the French Socialist Party is the closest of the European Socialist Parties to Zionism ever since it was established. The traditional stances of this party were pro-Israeli with a slight touch of a conditioned support to the Palestinian cause.

"Yet, the Arab formal and public opinion believed Mitterrand would introduce some kind of balance to the policy of this party following his election as president. Arabs thought he would take into consideration the vast French interests in the Arab world. But Cheysson's statements in Jerusalem yesterday affirmed the alignment of socialist France to Israel, its adoption of the Camp David formula, and its pledge to protect the Jewish state, to sell it arms and to obstruct the European initiative in addition to ignoring the direct reference to the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"Of course, the Arabs realize that the era of De Gaulle and its extension has ended and that a new era has begun in France with the arrival of Mitterrand and his socialist 'group.' Yet, should the ruling Socialist Party in France disparage its relations with the Arabs, Arabs would then have to be pardoned for treating France in a similar manner."

OMAN

REPORTED VIOLATION OF PDRY TERRITORY DENIED

GF091411 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0935 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Muscat, 9 Dec (WAKH) -- Oman has issued a denial concerning a report contained in a communique distributed by the PDRY Embassy in Beirut. According to the communique, Omani helicopters landed in the (Ziban) and (Siwab) Valleys to evacuate [ikhla'] inhabitants there.

An Omani Foreign Ministry spokesman said this morning that these claims are false and fabricated. He said they are aimed at confusing public opinion and creating anxiety in the region. The spokesman said that Oman's policy is based on countering any attack. Oman is endeavoring through the Gulf Cooperation Council to establish stability in the region and to put an end to the hostile policy the PDRY Government is pursuing against its neighbors.

Last Thursday, Oman refuted a similar communique issued by the PDRY Embassy in Beirut. The communique stated that Omani airborne forces had expelled [tard] citizens from the (Dibin) and(Sa'idah) Valleys on the Omani-PDRY border.

BRIEFS

GAS PIPELINE -- The Murayrat-Suhar gas pipeline was inaugurated today in Oman's (?Anjaza) Valley. The 235-km-long pipeline cost 14.8 million Omani riyals. The pipeline will supply the copper mines with gas for electric power and will also supply power stations along the Al-Batinah coast. This 10-year project will save Oman 75 million dollars annually. [Manama Wakh in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Dec 81 GF]

OMANI-JAPANESE AGREEMENT -- The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the under secretary of the Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry, and Japan, represented by Mr (Yoshiji) of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, have signed an agreement on an hydrogeological control project for the Al-Batinah coast of Oman. The agreement provides for the construction of five hydrogeological control stations in order to gather hydrogeological information that will promote agricultural development. The 3-year project will cost $4.5 million. [Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 2 Dec 81 GF]

QATAR

AUSTRIA'S KREISKY ARRIVES IN DOHA 9 DEC

GF091503 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Doha, 9 Dec (WAKH) -- At the conclusion of his tour of a number of Gulf states, Austrian Chancellor Dr Bruno Kreisky arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi this morning on an official visit to Qatar that will last several hours.

During his visit, the Austrian chancellor will hold talks with Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, deputy amir and heir apparent, on bilateral relations, the situation in the Middle East, the Palestinian question and issues of mutual interest.

Upon arrival, the Austrian chancellor was received by the Qatari deputy amir and a number of senior civilian and military officials.

Talks Begin

GF091528 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1325 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Doha, 9 Dec (WAKH) -- The Qatari and Austrian sides began their official talks here this afternoon.

The Qatari side is headed by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari deputy amir and heir apparent, while the Austrian side is headed by Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

The talks were attended on the Qatari side by Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Khalid ibn Muhammad al-Mani', health minister. On the Austrian side, the talks were attended by Josef Staribacher, minister of commerce, trade and industry, and Kurt Steyrer, minister of health and environment.

The two sides discussed developments in the Middle East in general and the Palestinian question in particular. They also discussed current international developments, a number of issues of mutual interest and bilateral relations and the means of reinforcing them.

Press Statement Issued

GF091938 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Dohan 9 Dec (WAKH) -- Qatar and Austria have stressed the necessity of establishing a just and permanent peace in the Middle East, a peace that is based on Israel's complete withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and recognition of the fixed and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish an independent state in their homeland under the leadership of the PLO, which is their only legitimate representative.

In a press statement issued in Doha today at the conclusion of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky's visit to Qatar, the two countries stressed that maintaining security and peace in the Gulf region is the responsibility of the region's states. The statement stresses the importance of keeping the region away from the competition and conflict of the superpowers.

The Qatari and Austrian sides expressed anxiousness to develop and bolster bilateral relations in all fields.

Visit Ends

GF091558 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1354 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Doha, 9 Dec (WAKH) -- Austrian Chancellor Dr Bruno Kreisky left Doha for home this afternoon following a 1-day official visit to Qatar. During his visit, he held talks with senior Qatari officials, dealing primarily with the Palestinian question.

Upon departure, the Austrian chancellor was seen off by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and deputy amir.

Kreisky's visit to Doha came at the end of a tour of the Arabia Gulf region that included Kuwait, Bahrain and the UAE.

UAE

'ARAFAT MEETS U.S. CONGRESSMAN IN ABU DHABI

GF091646 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1235 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Dec (WAKH) -- Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, met at noon today with Mervyn M. Dymally, Democratic congressman and member of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the Middle East situation and the U.S. Government's position on the Palestinian question.

In a statement made following the meeting, Mr Dymally said that his meeting with the Palestinian leader was important. He added that he listened to 'Arafat's opinion on developments regarding the Palestinian question and said that he will relay the Palestinian viewpoint to the U.S. Congress in preparation for a dialogue with the PLO. He also said that he hopes that wisdom will prevail in developing a dialogue between the United States and the PLO.

He added that it is important that stances develop into a dialogue and discussion, because this is the key to reaching a peaceful settlement to the Middle East question. He added: We do not want to see the introduction of military solutions to this problem.

'ARAFAT, KREISKY, PRESIDENT HOLD MEETINGS

JN091611 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, accompanied by Fatah Central Committee member Abu al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil], arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning.

After his arrival 'Arafat met with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. The meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of cordiality, dealt with the points of view of the two sides concerning issues of joint interest and relations between the PLO and the Federal Republic of Austria, in addition to the latest developments in the Middle East and the world.

During the meeting, Chancellor Kreisky confirmed his principled support for the Palestinian cause and the struggle of the Palestinian people. He said he could understand the difficult circumstances which the Palestinian cause is facing since he himself went through similar circumstances when he lived in exile during the occupation of Austria.

After that, 'Arafat and Kreisky held a separate meeting which was later joined by United Arab Emirates ruler [President] Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Shaykh Zayid, in return, confirmed his country's support for the Palestinian people's just struggle and expressed his satisfaction with the holding of such a meeting in Abu Dhabi.

After seeing Kreisky off at Abu Dhabi airport, Shaykh Zayid and PLO Chairman 'Arafat held a bilateral meeting which covered the latest developments in the region.

In related news, Ribhi 'Awad, the PLO representative in the United Arab Emirates, yesterday met with Chancellor Kreisky. The meeting, which was held at Kreisky's request, dealt with bilateral relations between the PLO and Austria and the various aspects of the Palestinian cause on all levels.

The 1 and 1/2-hour meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere and amid a mutual desire for the consolidation of bilateral relations.

Kreisky confirmed his country's position, saying that the comprehensive, just and durable peace in the Middle East could not be obtained without the recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent state over their national soil under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

KREISKY, 'ARAFAT COMMENT ON ABU DHABI TALKS

AU091406 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1130 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Wilfried Seifert telephone report from Qatar on Kreisky-'Arafat talks in Abu Dhabi on 9 December, and a Seifert interview with Kreisky on his tour of Gulf states recorded "before" these talks -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Begin telephone report recording] As has been learned after the latest talks between Chancellor Kreisky and PLO chief 'Arafat, the PLO seems to have essentially given up its resistance to the Fahd plan, the plan worked out by the Saudi Arabian crown prince. Kreisky and 'Arafat met in Abu Dhabi at Shaykh Zayid's guest palace, and afterwards they commented separately on these talks to newsmen. Their statements were not completely in parallel, but they were in concurrence to a large extent. As far as the Fahd plan is concerned, 'Arafat thinks that there is a possibility of a compromise, arguing that he knows his Arab tribes and that it will take a certain time before possibilities for compromise are thoroughly discussed. 'Arafat refused, however, to be pinned down as to how long that would take, how many months or years. Kreisky said he had the impression that the PLO would essentially accept the Fahd plan.

As regards Austria's relations with the PLO, which markedly deteriorated owing to attacks by Palestinian groups in Austria, and owing to PLO chief 'Arafat's openly expressed joy over the death of Egyptian President as-Sadat: Regarding the first issue, Kreisky declared after the talks that there could be no doubt that the PLO had nothing to do with the attacks, specifically with the assassination of Vienna City Councilman Nittel. Here the Abu Nidal group had been at work, Kreisky said, and 'Arafat made it quite clear that he neither approved of such activities nor could be held responsible for them. As far as the second issue, As-Sadat, is concerned: Here the talks probably did not get very far. 'Arafat declared that this was an old matter and that there was not much point in talking about old matters if one is faced with new problems. Chancellor Kreisky apparently accepted this position essentially, and reportedly said that while that was not very decent of 'Arafat, decency and politics were not necessarily the same thing. [end recording]

[Begin recording Kreisky interview] [Question] Mr Chancellor, you have now visited three Middle East countries [Kuwait, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi], can you tell us something about the foreign political results of your trip?

[Answer] Relations between Austria and these countries, which are economically important, have always been very good but there is no question that these relations have been further deepened. And this is important because although we have made noteworthy progress in our economic relations, in our trade with these countries, anyone who comes here realizes that we could do a lot more in this respect, and that there are tremendous opportunities for us here which must be utilized. The political climate that has been established, as well as the negotiating climate which the ministers accompanying me -- the trade minister and the health minister -- have succeeded in creating here, is making all that easier. But, in this part of the world nothing is given away as a gift; we must be efficient, we must meet high quality standards because all the world is coming here trying to sell its products.

[Question] Is it not particularly difficult for Austria because it is almost too late to get into this market? The biggest firms of the biggest countries have already established a foothold here, and have made very tempting offers. Austria is rather late, and its firms are smaller.

[Answer] I don't think that in this part of the world the firms necessarily have to be big. On the contrary, medium-sized firms can also have a good chance. No, one cannot say we are too late: Some of our big companies are here; they have been here for quite some time, and they have done rather well to date. Perhaps we have not fully utilized all our opportunities, but I believe that now the whole thing will get a further strong impetus again.

[Question] Mr Chancellor, briefly on foreign policy: Yesterday you stated that the moment for the opening of talks between Israel and the representatives of the Palestinians had never before been as favorable as now, at this moment. What has induced you to assume that?

[Answer] Because for the first time there is a plan that comes from a group of Arab states, a plan in which it is clearly stated: We are ready under certain conditions to consent to a settlement in which we, of course, recognize Israel's existence. However, this must on the other hand entail that the right of the Palestinians to a state of their own is also recognized. Actually, I do not believe the present Israeli Government is in the least ready to accept anything along these lines -- it will take a long process before this will be possible -- but certainly a new signal has been given by the Arab side and it would be eminently dangerous for the Western world if it failed to take note of such a signal. What Israel does is its own business. We, however, will have to accept at long last that possibilities do exist... [voice trails off]. [end recording]

KREISKY HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN ABU DHABI

GF091800 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky has expressed admiration for UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. In a press conference held in Al-Mushrif Palance, the Austrian chancellor said that Shaykh Zayid is frank, wise and openminded. The Austrian chancellor added that the Camp David agreements were useless as far as resolving the Palestinian question -- which is considered a principal issue in the Middle East. He said Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz's peace plan for the Middle East offers a better basis for peace and a more comprehensive ground for future talks, especially if other allies join in.

Chancellor Kreisky said he is pleased with the proud of the talks he has been having during his tour, which has so far included Kuwait, Bahrain and the UAE. He added that these talks have been frank, useful and based on trust.

Chancellor Kreisky said relations between Austria and the PLO are good and there is no misunderstanding between them. He added that during his meeting with 'Arafat today, he asked him to dispatch a senior official to Vienna to serve as the new PLO representative in Austria. He added that Mr 'Arafat presented him with a comprehensive view of Middle East developments, informed him of his new opinion of Prince Fahd's initiative and assured him that the PLO has adopted a positive stand on the initiative. He added that he met 'Arafat 7 years ago, and since then they have had several contacts and meetings. It is known that Austria was the first European state to recognize the PLO as the political representative of the Palestinians.

The Austrian chancellor said the PLO has nothing to do with the incident that took place in Vienna in August, because the organization opposes all such actions.

The chancellor commented on his current tour, which includes Kuwait, Bahrain, the UAE and Qatar. He said he is pleased with the results of all the talks he has had so far and that they have been positive.

He added that Austria's relations with the Arab states are good but can be further improved. He added that he would prefer more economic, political and cultural cooperation between Austria and the Arab world.

The chancellor was asked for his opinion regarding the statements on the occupied territory that were attributed to French External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson. He said it is more appropriate to wait and listen to what he says when he returns. He added: If the French minister said what press reports have attributed to him, I believe he had no right to say what he did.

'ARAFAT COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH PRESIDENT

GF091832 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1710 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 9 Dec (WAM) -- In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, Yasir 'Arafat said that his talks with the UAE president dealt with the results of the FES conference, the Arab nation's march and Arab developments in view of the current difficult and serious circumstances the Arab nation is passing through. He added that he briefed the president on the situation inside the occupied territories, particularly the popular uprising that is in its fifth week. He also briefed the president on the seriousness of the situation in southern Lebanon in view of the Israeli deployments and the Zionist plan that was revealed by the enemy's defense minister, Sharon, who claimed that the plan would confuse the Palestinian revolution. The chairman of the Executive Committee said that his plan is aimed at justifying the conspiracy of the Civilian Administration in the West Bank and Gaza.

PDRY

FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS ON VISIT TO FRANCE

EA091536 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the YSP Central Committee and foreign minister, said France welcomes the call by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and Council of Ministers, for a summit of states of the Arabian Peninsula, the Gulf, the Horn of Africa and all the parties concerned, and that this call represents a contribution to preserving the security and stability of the region.

In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY on his return to Aden this morning after a visit to France accompanied by Brother 'Abd al-Qadir Ba Jammal, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of industry, the brother foreign minister said that, during his official visit to France, he met with the French foreign minister, the minister of external cooperation [as heard], the external relations secretary of the French Socialist Party and the leadership of the French Communist Party.

He said this visit provided the opportunity for discussions on possible ways to develop relations between Democratic Yemen and France, in particular since the French left gained power. The visit also made possible the exchange of viewpoints on a number of issues of common interest.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad said views on some current political issues in the Arab region and at the international level were concurrent, while there were differences in views of some issues. He said with some [word indistinct] we will reach agreement on these issues.

He explained that his visit to France provided the opportunity to clarify democratic Yemen's stand on the grave issues and developments being witnessed by the Arab region in general, and the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf Area, the Red Sea, the Horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean, in particular, as a result of the American imperialist onslaught aimed at complete control and hegemony over the region and plunder of its natural resources.

Regarding bilateral cooperation, the brother foreign minister said the delegation held fruitful discussions. The French side expressed interest in the development of bilateral economic relations, particularly in the fields of industry transportation and communications. The French side also expressed its readiness to contribute to financing some of these fields.

He was met on his return to Aden by Brother Shafil 'Umar 'Ali, deputy foreign minister, and a number of brother officials at the Foreign and Industry Ministries.

ENVOY RETURNS TO ADEN FOLLOWING VISIT TO YAR

JN091750 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Brother Salih [words indistinct], Politburo member and chairman of the National Security Council in the southern part of the homeland, returned to Aden this morning following a 2-day visit to San'a' during which he conveyed a verbal message to Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, from his brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the southern part of the homeland.

The message dealt with coordination and consultation between the officials of the two parts of the homeland, particularly in light of the agreement reached recently between the two presidents in Aden.

Speaking to SABA', Brother Salih described his meeting with the president as good and useful [words indistinct]. He added that President Salih showed understanding of all the proposed suggestions and even enriched them with valuable opinions that will contribute to further developing bilateral relations in order to draw up the fundamental pillars of the state of unity.

He added that President Salih asked him to convey a verbal reply to his brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

AL-AHRAM NOTES CHEYSSON STATEMENT ON EC PLAN

NC092240 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 9 Dec 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under a banner headline today the newspaper AL-AHRAM reflects on French Minister for External Affairs Claude Cheysson's ruling out Europe's embarking on any new initiatives to solve the Middle East crisis in order to encourage the states of the area to iron out differences by themselves and among themselves.

In this regard, the paper notes Cheysson's announcement at the press conference he held at the conclusion of his official visit to Israel that Europe's participation in the Sinai peacekeeping force is considered as transgressing the Venice declaration. He affirmed that France is prepared to contribute to this force under the agreements that stipulated their formation, that is, the Camp David agreements. Cheysson said: France is prepared to make an even greater contribution by participating in the redeployment of UNIFIL in Lebanon up to the Israeli border area, if France is asked to carry out such an action.

COMMENTATOR ON CHEYSSON REMARKS, AUTONOMY

NC091902 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Muhammad al-Bashbishi commentary: "Has the Time Come for Settling the Palestinian Autonomy Issue?"]

[Text] The Egyptian, Israeli and U.S. negotiators will meet again in Tel Aviv tomorrow in a new round of talks on full Palestinian autonomy. These talks will be held at a time when the cause of peace in the Middle East is undergoing extremely important changes as well as serious challenges. These changes impose on the negotiators a great responsibility and compel them to try to overcome all the obstacles that have hitherto, and without reasonable justification, barred a decisive settlement of this issue.

This round follows the visit of French Minister for External Affairs Claude Cheysson to Israel. At the end of his visit, Cheysson ruled out the possibility of Europe making any new initiatives to resolve the Middle East crisis. This is quite a new stance taken by French diplomacy -- and it has hitherto proved difficult to forecast its results.

Furthermore, this round of talks will be held following the suspension of the 12th Arab summit, which dispersed without taking a decisive stance on the cause of peace in the Middle East.

Things being as they are, it is imperative that the United States heighten its interest in the present phase of the negotiations and quickly appoint a head of its delegation to these negotiations in its capacity as a basic partner in the peace process.

The convening of this session of the autonomy talks is being accompanied by an escalation of tension and violence in the West Bank and Gaza in protest against the institution of the Israeli Civilian Administration in these areas. We believe the Israeli Government should stop its repressive measures in these areas, so that matters will not worsen in the cities of the West Bank and the Gaza sector.

When Israel instituted a Civilian Administration and withdrew military administration, Israel meant to show its good intentions.

Therefore, an appropriate atmosphere must be created to build confidence between the Israelis and the Palestinians and to halt policies and statements that tend to provoke Palestinian residents and the Arab world in general. Nor do these policies and statements do a service to the peace process.

Therefore, we hold the view that it is imperative to settle the issue of Palestinian autonomy at the requisite speed and to reach an agreement on the general principles for this matter on the bases stipulated in the Camp David agreements. These bases are:

1. To consider the autonomy authority a temporary arrangement for a transitional period, the aim of which is to ensure the transition of authority to the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza sector in a peaceful and orderly manner.

2. The authority of the autonomous government in the West Bank and Gaza sector will extend equally to the residents and the land.

3. The illegitimacy of any changes in topographic or demographic natures or in the legal status of the whole of, or of a part of, the West Bank and Gaza sector.

4. East Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the West Bank, and Arab legal and historic rights in the city must be reinstated.

5. The Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza sector are illegal and they should be withdrawn [wa yajibu sahbuha] within the context of a final solution of the issue.

AL-AHRAM COMMENTARY ON EC PLAN, CAMP DAVID

NC100918 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 10 Dec 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's editorial under the heading: "The European Initiative," AL-AHRAM says: The initiatives for resolving the Middle East question advance and retreat, appear and disappear, while Camp David remains, entrenches its principles every day, establishes a series of results and indicates that it continues to be an exemplary formula.

After the Fahd plan failed, the statements made by the French minister of external relations emphasize that Europe is now inclined to take its time in proposing any new initiatives in order to give the area's states the chance to develop a solution to differences among themselves, by themselves. Thus, the ball is in the Middle East's court.

The paper explains that these stands confirm a number of points:

1. That the Arab states, as is apparent from the Fes conference, cannot reach even a minimal agreement, although the Fahd plan was couched in ambiguous and vague expressions.

2. That the European states, even though they have more than a minimal agreement, want to proceed with a speed that is perhaps faster than the situation can tolerate. This contradiction in the two stands in itself reveals the Arab tragedy.

3. The question, first and last, depends on the area's states. It is their concern in the first place and on them rests the responsibility of endorsing solutions on subjects that directly concern them because they affect their interests and future.

AL-AHRAM adds: This has been the basis on which Egypt tackled the question ever since the beginning. It resulted in the only positive results, according to everyone's testimony. Egypt has tackled the principles and application of its cause, which is the general Arab cause, with courage.

Egypt has proved, despite the misfortune of the [Arab] renunciation of it and estrangement and despite [Arab accusations of] criminality and treason, that it is very keen on each Arab right and has set an example of how to deal successfully in the politics of this age.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS ON MUBARAK TALK TO NDP BODY

PM091025 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Dec 81 p 3

[Afkar al-Kharadli and Hasan 'Ashur report: "What Went on at the NDP Parliamentary Faction Meeting"; Mubarak: "It Is Not in Egypt's Interest for Egyptians To Be Hostile to One Another"]

[Excerpts] The NDP Parliamentary Committee began its meeting by observing a moment of silence in memory of the late leader Anwar as-Sadat at President Husni Mubarak's request. President Mubarak then began his talk, which dealt with the internal situation, democratic practice, NDP relations with other parties and the role of NDP members of parliament.

In his 40-minute talk the president dealt with the political situation, the period that followed the late leader's assassination, conditions that prevailed in Egypt and the period that followed the referendum and his assumption of office. He said it is necessary for the internal situation as a whole to be reviewed because it is in no one's interest for us to adopt hostile attitudes toward each other. It is essential that we all stand united for the sake of Egypt's higher interests and that there be no fighting, quarreling or incitement, since this will lead nowhere.

In his talk to the parliamentary body the president said: We agree that the most important thing we now face is the economic problem. The questions being asked in this regard are: Are we pursuing the correct economic course? How far have we deviated from this course? Have we strayed far from a moderate course?

He said: The economic problem is a national problem, and all experts in Egypt and in the NDP and the other parties should submit selfless proposals. We need no foreign experts to solve our economic problem, because Egypt abounds in its own experts and they know our internal problems. We ask them to submit practical and realistic solutions for our economic problems.

The president said: Comments are being made about the question of subsidies. There are elements that must not be touched, such as the bread subsidy. What is important is that the parties discuss the economic problem as a national problem, so that we can formulate the best economic policy. This is the method that should be followed in discussing every national problem.

Regarding democratic practice in the People's Assembly, the president said: We must be realistic. I tell you and tell all the parties that we should not raise issues to serve personal ends or resort to settling personal accounts, because that would be a curse.

Citing an example, the president said: I heard a question raised comparing the land reforms in the An-Nubariyah and As-Salihiyah projects. We all know that the two projects were launched during the late leader As-Sadat's era. We all applauded and supported the An-Nubariyah project on the grounds that its aim is land development; the same is true of the As-Salihiyah project. The fact is that we are involved in an experiment, and every experiment is subject to trial and error: Everything must be subject to evaluation to find out what is best. But to applaud something yesterday only to deplore it today is not acceptable to anybody. Let us raise ourselves to the level of responsibility. When the experiment ends, it will be subject to evaluation and everybody can take part in this evaluation. This does not mean that we keep silent over any deviation. Every deviation will be dealt with by the judiciary under the rule of law.

With regard to the political situation, President Mubarak said: We keep our word and honor our agreements. Nobody can come today and make us change our stand. Any change in our covenants and pledges will harm our people's interest.

The president affirmed that Camp David is the best framework for peace. He said: We respect our pledges and so does Israel. Our relations with Israel are proceeding normally.

The president stressed that we will not be dragged into war with anybody, nor will we be involved in a fight on which we are not consulted. We have had enough fighting for 30 years.

In his talk to the People's Assembly and the parliamentary body's consultative council [as published] the president referred to his meeting with President Ja'far Numayri. He said: We discussed the Fes conference and its outcome.

President Mubarak said that Palestinian self-rule is taking its course and that there is no link between autonomy and the withdrawal [from Sinai]. Autonomy will take time, and we will not rush into any decision that might lead us to results we do not desire. There is no hurry in the autonomy talks; we want to achieve reasonable and acceptable results on the Palestine problem. We will not make concessions; the Palestine problem does not belong to us but to its own people. I cannot give something that does not belong to me; it belongs to the Palestinian people.

President Mubarak said that the only document to which Israel adheres is the Camp David accords, although it is not in compliance with any of the UN resolutions. The Camp David agreement will strengthen our relations with Israel to the extent that we can play an influential role in the area.

President Mubarak said: We do not allow conditions to be dictated to us by anybody. We will not get involved in peripheral battles because of Egypt's responsibility, mission, and the course it has adopted for itself and from which it will not deviate.

The president then replied to all questions put by the members. Deputy Hasan Hafiz said that there is nothing in the Constitution or in the law that bans the president of the republic from being chairman of a party, particularly since we accepted this [Constitution]. The deputy said: In recent days we have heard views demanding that the president give up the NDP chairmanship.

Replying to this, President Mubarak said that he will remain NDP chairman and that he will be fair to the other parties.

The president said that we have four parties, and therefore, it is inconceivable for him to give up his post as party chairman and let the country be further divided among the four parties at a time when the national interest calls for closing all ranks.

President Mubarak said that to preserve national unity, which is our national objective, he agrees to be the chairman of the party and that from this position he will seek to promote democracy and ensure freedom of action for the other parties. President Mubarak said that he will treat the other parties on an equal basis and that from his position as president of the republic he will work for the welfare of all Egyptians.

Concluding his statement, the president said: As a country whose leader As-Sadat talked until he was hoarse about loyalty and love, it is inconceivable for us to talk about loyalty one time and at the next seek to undermine As-Sadat's era. A foreign journalist asked me about two articles that appeared in the Egyptian press containing indirect attacks on the leader As-Sadat. Loyalty is supposed to be our most important characteristic. President as-Sadat achieved tremendous results, and we all are the result of his work. By doing this we are hurting ourselves. Everyone has his positive and negative sides. Let us concentrate on the positive aspects, look toward the future, and learn the lessons of the past.

The president said: We are pursuing a line which we must respect. After some time we will appreciate the value of the great works achieved by the leader As-Sadat; if it had not been for his courage in taking initiatives, we would have achieved nothing.

CAIRO ANNOUNCES HAIG TO MEET WITH HASAN 'ALI

NC091950 Cairo MENA in English 1725 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA) -- Kamal Hasan 'Ali deputy premier and foreign minister, will have talks with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig here on December 18 on the current Middle East situation in general and the Palestinian autonomy negotiations, in particular, as well as on U.S.-Egyptian relations.

The talks will be held immediately following the arrival of Haig here for a few hours' visit to Cairo within a scheduled tour of a number of the countries of the area and east Asia after taking part in the NATO conference to open on Thursday.

OPPOSITION FRONT ISSUES STATEMENT URGING CHANGES

PM081055 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Dec 81 p 1

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Report]

[Text] London -- The leadership committee of the Egyptian National Front issued a statement after a meeting in Algiers 28-30 November saying that it had discussed the latest developments in Egypt and that it rejects the notion that the release of 31 political detainees means that a new policy is being implemented in Egypt.

In its statement the front lists 11 conditions that it says will point to a real change in Egypt. The following are at the top of the list -- the release of all political detainees and prisoners, the abolition of the emergency laws, the return of Egypt to the Arab ranks and liquidation of the vestiges of sectarian sedition.

The statement also urges the strengthening of the armed forces, the abrogation of the Camp David agreement and insists on rights for the Palestinian people.

BRIEFS

MUBARAK RECEIVES AMBASSADORS' CREDENTIALS -- Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak today received the credentials of four new ambassadors. They are: Sylvanco Kimamyk Baguma, ambassador of Uganda; Abdullah Suedi, ambassador of Tanzania; Lazar Ziruly, ambassador of Yugoslavia; and Sheri Alfredo Consanves, ambassador of India. The credential ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. [Text] [Cairo MENA in English 1000 GMT 8 Dec 81 NC]

MUBARAK RECEIVES AMBASSADORS' CREDENTIALS -- Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak this morning received the credentials of five new foreign ambassadors accredited to Egypt. They are: Mr (Gegeon), ambassador of Burundi; Mr Philippe Cuvillier, ambassador of France; [name indistinst], ambassador of Upper Volta; Mr Abel Clavijo Ostos, ambassador of Venezuela; and Mr Mohamed Kemo Fadika, ambassador of Sierra Leone. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali attended the presentation ceremonies at the Al-'Urubah Palace. [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 7 Dec 81 NC]

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 547

JN091646 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA) -- During the past 24 hours of war actions, Iraqi forces have inflicted heavy losses on the Iranian enemy. Communique No 547, issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening, put the known Iranian losses at 91 killed and 3 vehicles, 1 tank, 2 excavators, 1 stockpile of hardware, 1 observation post and 1 boat destroyed. The communique said Iraqi fighter planes today attacked enemy positions, concentrations and military targets in the central and southern sectors of the battlefield, inflicting massive losses in life and equipment before returning safely to base. It put our losses at 13 martyred and 1 personnel carrier, 3 vehicles and 2 mortars damaged. The following is the text of Communique No 547.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave armed forces will always remain capable of teaching the arrogant Persian enemy hard lessons until it gives up its aggressive tendencies and ambitions in Iraq and until it revokes its determination to disrespect Iraq's sovereignty and ignore Iraq's legitimate rights. The following are the results of the activities carried out in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today.

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our units continued to strike at the enemy opposite our positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region, killing 45 and destroying 1 tank, 2 vehicles, 2 excavators and 1 observation post.
B. One of our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the Sumar region, killing 21.
C. Seven killed in the Mehran region.
D. Five killed, one stockpile of hardware destroyed and one boat burned in the Abadan region.
E Five killed and one vehicle loaded with hardware destroyed in the Dezful region.
F. Four killed in the Nowsud region.
G. Four killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
H. Our air force aircraft today attacked the enemy positions; concentrations and military targets in the central and southern sectors of the battlefield, inflicting massive losses in life and equipment before returning safely to base.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 91 killed and 1 tank, 3 vehicles, 2 excavators, 1 stockpile of hardware, 1 observation post and 1 boat destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 13 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: one personnel carrier, three vehicles and two mortars damaged.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES ROMANIAN OFFICIAL

JN101015 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn this morning received Romanian Prime Minister Ilie Verdet.

The talks during the meeting, which was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, dealt with bilateral relations and with ways to strengthen these relations, to further promote cooperation between Iraq and Romania and to expand the framework of mutual understanding regarding issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was also attended by RCC member and First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC Secretary General Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah and Romanian First Deputy Prime Minister Ion Dinca. The Romanian official arrived in Baghdad last Tuesday on an official visit to Iraq.

ASSEMBLY, SOVIET PRESIDIUM ISSUE STATEMENT

JN091308 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA) -- The Iraqi National Assembly and the Supreme Soviet Presidium have asserted their mutual desire to develop relations between them and strengthen friendly Iraqi-Soviet relations on the basis of the 1972 Friendship and Cooperation Treaty.

In a joint statement issued here today following a visit to Iraq by a delegation of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, the two sides expressed anxiety regarding the aggravation of tension in the Middle East due to the Zionist entity's increasingly aggressive policy. They said that this policy is backed by the U.S. imperialist forces, which are trying to entrench their military presence in the region and exploit its natural resources.

The Iraqi and Soviet parliamentarians strongly condemned the defeatist Camp David accords, since they conflict with the radical interests of the Arab nation, particularly the rights of the Palestinian people, and do not bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. They denounced the strategic cooperation between the United States and the Zionist entity; the Zionist aggressive act of piracy against the At-Tammuz nuclear reactor, which is devoted to peaceful scientific research in Baghdad; and the ongoing Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance. The Iraqi and Soviet parliamentarians stressed the importance of the unity of Arab struggle against the plots of imperialism and its hirelings and against defeatist trends to solve the Middle East crisis. They expressed confidence that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved except through the Zionist forces' withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the implementation of the inalienable legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and establishment of an independent state. The statement stressed full support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The statement said that the Soviet parliamentarians asserted the Soviet Union's solidarity with Iraq's struggle against Zionist and imperialist aggressions and for its independence and national sovereignty. The Iraqi parliamentarians praised the Soviet Union's efforts in support of the Arab nation's just cause. The statement said that the two sides reviewed the situation in the Arab Gulf region and strongly condemned attempts by the imperialist forces to intervene in the domestic affairs of the states in the area and to threaten their security in various ways. The two sides expressed their anxiety over the continuation of the war between Iraq and Iran and called for an expeditious settlement of this conflict by peaceful means and negotiations. They supported international efforts for mediation to this end. The statement added that both sides expressed deep satisfaction with the results of their friendly talks, asserting that these results will consolidate the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly peoples and countries. The statement said that the Iraqi National Assembly accepted an invitation by the Supreme Soviet Presidium to visit the Soviet Union at a date to be set later.

DAILIES RESPOND TO FRENCH OFFICIAL STATEMENT

JN100818 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Press review]

[Text] The Amman dailies today devote their editorials to France's Mideast policy and to French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson's recent statements in Israel.

Under the headline "The French Trojan Horse," AR-RA'Y says: It is obvious that the Elysee secretary general's statement yesterday was an attempt to water down the reaction which has been prompted by the statements French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson made concerning the Venice declaration and the European initiative. Nevertheless, the Elysee spokesman did not rectify or alleviate the statement Cheysson made in Israel to the effect that he rules out the possibility that the European Community will submit an initiative, so long as the socialists in France remain in power.

It is well known that this statement, which was shaped in an arrogant and weird manner, has aroused widespread indignation in the Arab world, because it simply prevents the European Community from implementing its stand as declared in the Venice declaration. This undertaking is also bound to freeze the declaration.

Continuing, AR-RA'Y says: If the Elysee spokesman meant to justify this step when he said that it is absolutely impossible for France to replace or to give lessons to any side, we must say that this justification includes a hidden defamation, because the Arabs have never asked France or the European Community to shoulder their responsibilities toward the Arabs' cause, nor have they asked France and the European Community to give lessons to anyone. This has been well known by Paris both during Giscard d'Estaing's era and now.

Some might wonder if Cheysson's statements and the dose of justifications administered by the Elysee spokesman hide behind them the role of a French trojan horse inside the European Community, a role whose features have become clear now.

On the other hand, AR-RA'Y says, the European Community is called upon to officially define its stand on Cheysson's statements and to clearly point out if these statements express its viewpoint.

Under the headline "The Arabs and France's Stand," AD-DUSTUR says: The French statement yesterday supports rather than wards off the doubts aroused by Cheysson's statements on the French Government's intention to gradually free itself from the Venice declaration and consequently to revoke the European role in the Middle East peace process.

AD-DUSTUR says: The Arab reaction to Cheysson's statements has reflected fears that the restoration of normal relations between France and Israel might reopen the French arms arsenal for the Zionist entity and that this might then render this entity more arrogant and stubborn vis-a-vis the peace efforts, and also more determined to implement its expansionist and aggressive designs, not only in the occupied territories but also in the area at large.

In the European arena, Cheysson's statements have caused perplexity among the ranks of the European Community, which considers the French stand to be a deviation from the European stand.

AD-DUSTUR asserts that the most serious point in Cheysson's statements, one which has not been denied by the French Government's statement, is his claim that it is not France's concern or that of Europe to present peace proposals in the Middle East and that every state in the area should adopt the appropriate decision concerning the issue of peace.

MAJOR HADDAD DISCUSSES CURRENT TOPICS 8 DEC

NC081541 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Free Lebanon Commander Major Haddad has commented on some current topics as follows:

1. On behalf of the free Lebanese citizens and on my own behalf I offer my congratulations and esteem to our sons who are standing fast on Hill 800 despite the UN siege and despite difficult living conditions. If this indicates anything, it indicates that the sons of free Lebanon are determined to preserve their achievements and to die for the sake of liberating their homeland. All my sons -- the sons of free Lebanon -- have this strong determination.

2. At the United Nations and on the occasion of the so-called solidarity with the Palestinian people, Lebanon's permanent UN delegate Ghassan Tuwayni congratulated the representative of the swindlers, Labib at-Tarazi, on his speech in which he rejected the settlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon.

We strongly denounce this congratulation to the murderers of Lebanon and the Lebanese. We wish that Tuwayni, who is known for his patriotism, had asked At-Tarazi what the swindlers are doing in Lebanon in general and in southern Lebanon in particular now that they occupy most of Lebanon and have displaced the vast majority of its sons. Those Lebanese who remain under the control of the swindlers are being treated far worse than the treatment the Lebanese received during the dark era of Turkish rule.

If the swindlers really do not want to settle in Lebanon and are operating from southern Lebanon in order to liberate Palestine, let At-Tarazi inform us about the heroic operations the swindlers have carried out against Israel, aside from the mines they plant in free Lebanon to kill innocent Lebanese. If the swindlers do not want to settle in Lebanon, why don't they evacuate the villages and houses they occupy and allow their legitimate owners to return to them? Why don't they also allow the Lebanese state to impose its authority in southern Lebanon and other areas through its army. It is high time to expose the swindlers' lies to world public opinion now that the sons of Ad-Damur, As-Sa'diyyat, Al-Jiyah, Al-'Ayshiyah, An-Nabatiyah, Sidon and Tyre have realized the fact that the swindlers are occupying their country.

Every Lebanese now calls on the United Nations to cancel the day of deception and usurpation -- the so-called Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People -- and replace it with a day of real and human solidarity with the Lebanese people, so that they can restore their homeland, independence and their right to live in dignity in their own country.

3. I appreciate and respect the moral courage of the respresentative of the supreme Shi'ite council, His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Ja'far Shams ad-Din, that courage which was manifested in his speech delivered in Qabrikha town in southern Lebanon 6 December on the occasion of the passage of 1 week after the death of Eng Ahmad al-Haj Musa az-Zayn. In his speech, his eminence expressed the feelings of all the southerners who have realized that the swindlers want to settle in southern Lebanon at the expense of its sons and who have decided to confront and foil this plan by force and to expel the swindlers from all of southern Lebanon. We express our absolute support for the honorable and national stand of Shaykh Shams ad-Din. We pledge to him and to all southerners that we will not rest until we liberate the south from the swindlers so that we will then set out to liberate all Lebanon. We are ready to support anyone who wants to join us in this national and sacred duty.

SARKIS DISCUSSES VISITS BY U.S., USSR ENVOYS

NC091636 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] At the beginning of today's Cabinet meeting President Ilyas Sarkis delivered a statement in which he dealt with the Arab summit conference in Fes and the visits of the Soviet and U.S. envoys to Lebanon. He said he had nothing to add to the briefing Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan had given to the ministers on the results of the Fes summit conference, whether in regard to the atmosphere that dominated the conference, the discussions there or the resolutions that dealt with southern Lebanon.

President Sarkis added: These resolutions, if implemented, will fulfill the main purpose for which Lebanon demanded the convening of a special Arab summit conference on southern Lebanon. Therefore, the minister of foreign and expatriates affairs has held contacts with the Arab League secretary general to expedite the formation of a committee entrusted with drawing up a common Arab strategy, as called for by the summit conference.

President Sarkis then briefed the Cabinet on the results of talks held with roving Soviet Ambassador Sytenko and U.S. envoy Habib. He affirmed that Lebanon always strives to use these talks to serve Lebanese interests and Arab issues.

AFP: HIJACKERS OF LIBYAN PLANE SURRENDER

NC092232 Paris AFP in English 2228 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Beirut, 10 Dec (AFP) -- The hijackers of the Libyan plane surrendered here at 0:20 a.m. Thursday local time (2220 Wednesday GMT) it was learned here.

The hijackers surrendered, following five hours of negotiations, to Syrian Colonel Muhammad Ghanim, intelligence chief of the Arab dissuasion force, and to Nabih Berri, head of the Shi'a Amal Movement, who met them at the foot of the boarding ramp of the Libyan Boeing 727.

Under the agreement reached with the air pirates, the plane and its passengers are to leave for Larnaca, Cyprus, as soon as the plane is ready.

The plane had returned here for the third time in three days at 7:30 p.m. local time Wednesday (1730 GMT), coming from Tehran.

It was unclear whether the hijackers were to be arrested here or if they would be set free.

Though they had demanded the presence at the airport of Lebanese Premier Shafiq al-Wazzan, Lebanese authorities instead delegated General al-Haj, the head of the internal security forces (national police). He apparently took part indirectly in negotiations.

But it was to Colonel Ghanim of the Arab dissuasion force that the air pirates [word indistinct] surrendered. The force, dominated by Syrians, is answerable to the Lebanese president.

The hijackers had refused, throughout the negotiations, to turn themselves over to Lebanese authorities.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENT

JN101008 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today issued a statement on the 33d anniversary of the world human rights declaration.

The statement affirms that since independence, Syria has adhered to human rights in its territory. Indeed, it adds, Syria has issued laws defining these rights and outlining ways of practicing and implementing them. There was also the constitution, which the People's Assembly raised on 21 January 1972 as a slogan of the corrective movement -- led by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad -- and supported by the people in a general referendum, thus enriching the human rights concept and clarifying the means for preserving the citizen's rights and helping the citizen exercise these rights effectively.

The constitution affirmed that it is the people who have sovereignty in their hands and that the People's Assembly represents democratically elected institutions, through which citizens exercise their rights with regard to the administration and leadership of society.

The statement adds: While Syria has fulfilled its commitments to the UN Charter and the human rights declaration, in some parts of the world human rights are still being violated, withheld and subjected to pressures. Proof of this is manifested by the subservience, oppression and injustice suffered by the people under the racist, fascist regimes in Israel, South Africa and Namibia, the deprivation of all civil and political rights, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment. Furthermore, there are several peoples who are deprived of their right to determine their own fate. The most important among these people is the Palestinian people.

The statement points out that the Zionist entity is still the best example of a regime violating human rights whether in territories occupied in 1948 or those seized during the 1967 aggression. In fact, Israel's violation of human rights reached such an extent that the United Nations formed a committee to deal with Israel's violation of human rights in the occupied territory. However, Israel refused to receive, deal with or provide any information to this committee.

The statement adds that on the anniversary of the human rights declaration, Syria asserts that if these racist regimes -- particularly Israel and world imperialism -- do not stop violating human rights and basic liberties, injustice will continue to prevail in many parts of the world.

The statement points out that injustice and aggression will continue to be resisted until the individual regains his dignity and freedom and until the peoples that are colonized and expelled from their homelands attain the right to determine their own fate.

It has become clear and certain that racism, Zionism and world imperialism are jeopardizing international security and peace and impeding economic and social development projects in the developing countries.

The U.S.-Zionist strategic cooperation agreement constitutes support for the Israeli enemy and helps it continue aggression, racism and colonialism.

Today, as the United Nations celebrates this anniversary -- which this international organization enriched with a just decision associating Zionism with racism, in international declarations and agreements that protect human rights and safeguard human dignity and liberties -- it is called on to double its struggle in order to achieve the goals defined by its charter and the human rights declaration.

Syria, which has contributed to all efforts exerted both inside and outside the UN framework in order to achieve the aforementioned goals, will continue its struggle alongside other peace and freedom-loving peoples.

AL-ASAD TO VISIT MOSCOW, ASK FOR STRATEGIC PACT

JN100907 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 10 Dec 81 p 6

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources in Moscow have stated that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will soon arrive in Moscow for talks with Soviet leaders on developments in the Middle East situation. Al-Asad will also request a strategic agreement between Moscow and Damascus similar to Washington and Tel Aviv.

These sources added that a high-ranking military delegation will accompany President al-Asad during the visit. The delegation will request the Soviets to supply the Syrian Army with early-warning aircraft similar to the U.S. AWACS.

In another development, press reports said that a new Syrian Government will be formed within the next few days to succeed the government of Dr al-Kasm. The reports added that most prominent candidate to head the new government is Ahmad Diyab, particularly since former Prince Minister Mahmud al-Ayyubi has declined.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ACCORD SIGNED WITH LIBYA

JN091523 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Damascus, 9 Dec (SANA) -- The Syrian Arab Republic and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah signed minutes of an agreement for economic cooperation at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade at noon today.

On the Syrian side, the minutes were signed by Dr Salim Yasin, minister of economy and foreign trade, while it was signed on the Libyan side by Brother Abu Zayd Durdah, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy.

The signing ceremony was attended by Ahmad 'Abd as-Salam ibn Khayyal, director of the Libyan People's Bureau in Damascus; Dr Taha Bali, assistant minister of economy and foreign trade; and the members of the two countries' delegations.

The minutes of agreement stressed that the talks were held in an atmosphere of complete understanding based on the solid relations of Arab brotherhood that exist between the two fraternal countries. The talks dealt with the means of developing the minutes of agreement for economic cooperation and the organization of the current trade agreement.

It has been agreed to promote this agreement in accordance with the new factors of cooperation that will achieve unity of economic action between the two countries.

The minutes provide a framework for cooperation in trade and in finance, insurance, industry, agriculture, communications, transportation and joint ventures.

Libyan Official Leaves

JN091850 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1835 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Damascus, 9 Dec (SANA) -- Abu Zayd Durdąh, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy, left Damascus for home today at the end of a 5-day visit to Syria.

KHADDAM MEETS LIBYA'S JALLUD ON AIRPORT ARRIVAL

JN101257 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived here at 1330 today.

He was received at the airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister; the head of the Libyan relations bureau in Damascus; and several top Foreign Ministry officials.

EGYPT MAY APPLY 'PRESSURE' IF TALKS FAIL

TA091746 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Dec 81

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Jerusalem political sources said this evening that in Israel's opinion it is not in Egypt's interest to go to war with Israel and that peace with that country will continue even beyond April 1982, when Israel will have completed its pullback from the Sinai.

In a meeting with political correspondents, political circles expressed their opinion that there is a possibility that Egypt will actually join other countries to pressure Israel, if the autonomy negotiations fail. However, this will not harm the peaceful state of affairs between the two countries.

DEFENSE MINISTER DEPARTS FOR UNITED KINGDOM

TA100828 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon left for London this morning for a 24-hour visit. He will meet the British defense secretary and will speak at a rally marking the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

SHARON INTERVIEWED ON CURRENT STRATEGIC ISSUES

TA092015 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Interview with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon by political correspondent Elimelekh Ram and defense affairs correspondent Ron Ben-Yishay in the station's Tel Aviv studio -- live]

[Excerpts] [Question] Good evening. The increasing disturbances in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip; the government's scheduled discussion of the payment of compensation to the Yamit inhabitants in its upcoming session next Sunday; the deteriorated working relations in the defense establishment; the memorandum of understanding, what it contains and what it lacks and to what extent it strengthens Israel's security -- these questions and others, such as the defense minister's trip to Africa, will be raised this evening in a talk with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. Together with me in the studio is my colleague Ron Ben-Yishay. Good evening to you Mr Minister.

[Answer] Good evening.

[Question] Sir, it turns out that the new policy you adopted in the territories has provoked ever-increasing unrest, following a lengthy period of relative calm. The question is whether there is room today, sir, to reconsider this policy.

[Answer] The answer is no. There is no doubt that the unrest is mainly the result of the new policy. A policy is not tested in a short period of time; tolerance and patience are called for. The chief line in the new policy is that it works against those supporting the terrorist organizations. Only a few days ago, Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah published some remarks in the newspaper ASH-SHA'B, saying that the recently established self-administration [as heard] is the greatest danger, even more dangerous than autonomy.

From the statistical point of view, if we compare it to previous periods, there is no increase in unrest, but undoubtedly there is unrest and there are disruptions. However, if I were to compare it, for example, to the events in 1976 -- we still remember those films showing IDF soldiers escaping into the Nabulus alleys, chased by an Arab crowd -- there is nothing of the sort now and there will be nothing like it in the future.

[Question] Mr Sharon, would you say that after 2 months under this policy there is greater willingness among the inhabitants of the territories to participate in the establishment and implementation of the autonomy?

[Answer] Through our activities in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district we are not looking for a way to turn the inhabitants into Zionists. Neither are we looking for partners to agree to our remaining in the area. We are concentrating our efforts on strengthening those people who regard the terrorist organizations and their leadership as the real threat. Among those people, willingness to oppose these threats is constantly increasing, not only in the rural sector but in the urban sector as well. This is happening for the first time in years, that people are daring to utter their opinions in public and are even asking for arms to defend themselves from those heading the supporters of the terrorist organizations.

[Question] However, I would like you to comment on the willingness of the inhabitants of the territories to participate in the establishment of the autonomy, to elect and be elected. Do you think that this policy will make these chances greater?

[Answer] Yes, I believe so. If I were to compare their willingness to conduct a dialogue today to the situation 1 month ago, I would say that the situation should be viewed with optimism. This is a lenghty process and patience is required. In my opinion, the dialogue will expand. I reiterate: We are nurturing people who regard the terrorist organizations as the greatest danger and who long for a peaceful coexistence, although there are people among them who differ over the way to reach a political solution.

[Question] Sir, when do you think this policy will bear fruit?

[Answer] This is a lengthy process. I would not like to project a date now.

[Question] Will it take months or years?

[Answer] The process of building a relationship between nations after 30 years of wars and following around 100 years of struggle between Palestinian Arabs in Eretz Yisra'el and the Zionist movement is not a short process. It may take months until we reach a situation where there is a dialogue. In my opinion, the building of a relationship is a lengthy process which may also take years.

[Question] Sir, you spoke about building a relationship. However, the houses that were blown up in Bayt Sahur belonged to families who coexisted de facto with Israel. Was the punishment imposed in this case not exaggerated?

[Answer] First of all, Bayt Sahur has always been a center for terrorist activities. It housed terrorist cells of organizations related to communist cells. Generally speaking, I would suggest that we do not regard Christian Arabs as people whose position regarding Israel is less extreme than that of others.

As for the punishment, in my opinion, there is no other choice but to follow a line stating that a population -- even if it does not support Israel and does not want us to rule over it, and there is nobody in Judaea and Samaria who wants us to rule there -- wishing to live in peace will enjoy the easiest possible terms and, at the same time, that we will continue to fight to the bitter end the terrorist organizations and any disruption of order, and we are doing just that.

[Question] Yet, sir, when you blow up the house of an Arab who wanted to peacefully coexist with us because his child throws a stone or even a bomb, you are actually destroying the very relationship we wish to build.

[Answer] I would suggest that we get our facts straight. We have never destroyed the house of the parents of a youth who hurled a stone. As for using the word child, I would like to remind you that the Arroyo children -- those two babies who were murdered in the Gaza Strip in 1971 -- were killed by a handgrenade thrown into their car by a 15-year-old-boy.

[Question] Sir, what are your proposals for solving the question of compensation to the Yamit inhabitants? This issue will be raised in the Cabinet meeting on Sunday.

[Answer] I was sent by the Cabinet to examine the situation in the Yamit Strip with the goal of trying to ease the tension there. In my opinion, the most serious thing that could happen would be a forceful action. There is nothing easier than sending an IDF brigade to evacuate everybody from that area. I think that we must make every possible effort so that Jews do not fight Jews.

At this point I would like to add a personal remark. In my youth, my late father asked me one thing -- this happened during the Saison period. He said: I only want to ask you one thing: You may choose to be anything you want. Maybe you would like to be an agronom like I am; maybe you will be a farmer; you can choose any profession you like. Whatever you do, I only want to ask of you one thing: never lend a hand to a war of Jews against Jews. This legacy has been following me throughout the years. In my opinion, every effort should be made to avoid such a war.

[Question] You used teargas and Israeli policemen to forcefully disperse a demonstration of Israeli youths who were protesting the closing of Bi'r Zayt University.

[Answer] I want to reiterate that order will be maintained and, on this issue, there will be no discrimination between Jews and Arabs, and that is how we acted in Bi'r Zayt. Well, as for Jews joining Arabs, I would like to say something on this issue. I am ready to accept one Arab calling another Arab a Quisling. However, when a Jew calls an Arab who is willing to fight against the terrorist organizations a Quisling, in my opinion this is a very serious thing. I believe that this is a very grave phenomena. I think that we are actually destroying ourselves.

The issue of compensation to the Yamit inhabitants is a very complex problem. After all, this is a terrible tragedy, and is a very dear price that we have to pay for peace. A way should be found to conclude this issue. My impression is that some of the demands are justified. I was sent by the Cabinet and I will report to the Cabinet, suggesting that every way be tried to find a peaceful solution.

[Question] Does this suggestion not entail the risk that it will provoke a chain reaction by the inhabitants of the [Rafah] approaches, the wives of regular army personnel or the inhabitants of Ofira?

[Answer] I would not like to elaborate now on the specific points of the various proposals. The Cabinet, which has a very large task to perform, will make up its mind. I am also aware that this is an uncomfortable situation, but the problem is a serious one. Consequently, during the evacuation we will be confronted with a very complex problem. In my opinion, it is better to conduct the struggle on this issue in the shortest possible time period rather than extend the debate for many months.

[Question] Mr Sharon, there are some people who believe that the government is intentionally dragging its feet in the negotiations to show the world the difficulties it is facing in implementing the peace treaty. Is this assumption or speculation groundless?

[Answer] This speculation is totally groundless. It seems to me that there is nobody in the world who fails to grasp the tragedy of people leaving their places of residence, the fruits of their many years of labor. We do not need to demonstrate anything to anybody, and the Egyptians know this. The Egyptians know that we are faced with a complex problem. However, they also know that the government signed a peace treaty and that the government will stand by what it signed.

[Question] Do you believe that the evacuation of Yamit will proceed peacefully?

[Answer] The government will make every possible effort to have a peaceful evacuation. In my opinion, a confrontation must be avoided at any possible cost. The treaty signed with Egypt will be fulfilled according to what the government signed.

[Question] Mr Sharon, in your capacity as defense minister will you order the IDF to act if the inhabitants resist the evacuation?

[Answer] I hope the inhabitants will not resist the evacuation. I hope that the evacuation will be carried out without resorting to force.

[Question] What about the people for the movement for stopping the withdrawal from the Sinai, the people who have arrived in that area in the last few weeks?

[Answer] One must bear in mind that at the time the Cabinet decided that normal life should proceed in the Yamit district until the latest possible date. It is my belief that the people who have arrived in the area will ultimately realize that the area must be evacuated. I believe that peace will persist even after April 1982. These people will move out after the government has called on them to do so, on the date the government decides upon.

[Question] Let me ask you but one question, Sir, seeing that we are running out of time: Are the agreements [sikumim] you reached during your African tour known and acceptable to all the Cabinet members?

[Answer] I brought the agreements to the attention of that limited ministerial team....

[Question, interrupting] Why not to the entire Cabinet?

[Answer] As the normal procedure demands, and the way signed agreements are handled, they were forwarded to the Foreign Ministry; a coordinating session was held between the two ministries on this; the agreements [heskemim] will be brought to the Cabinet in accordance with the common practice in such cases, and that will provide the opportunity, naturally, for details to be reported.

As for why this issue was not brought to the knowledge of the entire Cabinet, but only to a limited number of ministers, it is because these issues are delicate. Not that there is, God forbid, lack of confidence in the Cabinet -- in my opinion this is a good Cabinet, a Cabinet which functions well -- but there are many other issues, too, that are discussed in limited forums. At the time the forum that dealt with those issues was the ministerial defense committee. Today there is no such committee, and that is why there is a group of ministers with whom the prime minister consults -- that group knows things, and I am convinced that those agreements [heskemim] we brought along with us, signed agreements that must receive government approval, will certainly contribute both to Israel's economy and security.

[Question] Mr Minister, it is not only the African issue that was not brought to the Cabinet's attention, but neither was the strategic memorandum of understanding. The ministers saw its final draft only an hour before you took off for the United States. The Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee has been complaining about this, as has the press. Do you follow all the regular procedures, as required in a democratic regime?

[Answer] What sort of a question is that? Could you point to even one instance, or one move I made ever since I was discharged from the Army that did not follow democratic procedures? I was discharged from the Army; I followed the democratic procedure of establishing the Likud; I ran for elections; I was elected a Knesset member -- I will yet come to your question -- and I personally ran in elections. How many people in Israel have actually run in a democratic manner in elections in this country? I was reelected, I was a candidate for membership in all the movement's institutions, everywhere -- is this not democratic?

[Question] We are talking about the decisionmaking process in the cabinet.

[Answer] Let me now return to the issue you raised. It seems to me that there is no subject that had undergone so many stages at the Cabinet as this one. I numbered 12 different, prolonged actions on this matter undertaken since the preparatory stage, when the prime minister and a group of ministers departed for the United States in September. In the course of that period of time, after our return in September, I raised the issue -- in what I would say was its entirety -- to the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee. The matter was on the Cabinet's agenda.

There are moments during negotiations, and they may be the final, most difficult moments, when there is no alternative but to maintain some things in secrecy. Again, these things were brought to the attention of a limited group of ministers, in coordination with the prime minister and the foreign minister.

I would like to tell you that the final stage of the negotiations lasted 5 hours. It was very difficult, so it was a good thing that we went there [presumably to Washington] with some surprises and that not all was known.

[Question] Sir, we must end this, but I cannot do so without asking you the following question: Do you intend, through a democratic procedure, to be the prime minister of Israel when the time comes?

[Answer] One cannot, in a democratic procedure, determine what his post will be. In a democratic process, people are part of the political and public life and try to do their job. When the time comes, they are up for election -- all of them. This is the democratic process. I have no intention of acting in any way different than what is acceptable according to this process.

[Ram] Mr Minister of Defense, I thank you very much for having come to the studio. And a good evening to our viewers.

[Sharon] Thank you very much

SHARON COMMENTS ON TERRITORIES, SOVIET THREAT

TA090629 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Report by Knesset correspondent Arye Golan -- recorded]

[Text] Speaking yesterday evening to the Likud faction in the Knesset, the defense minister covered a long list of subjects, starting with policy in the territories through the strategic memorandum to the reasons for the dismissal of his director general, Yosef Ma'ayan. Sharon said he decided to fire Ma'ayan after he found that a report drawn up for him by the director general -- which dealt with the Lavie plane's engine -- had been leaked to the press even before Sharon had had a chance to read it. The report was leaked while the defense minister was on a visit abroad.

Immediately upon his return, Sharon said, he phoned Yosef Ma'ayan and asked him to submit a letter of resignation by 1700 hours that day. With me there will not be any such phenomena, Arik said, adding: with me there will be order. He also asserted that he would not allow Israel aircraft industries to publish ads against him paid for out of the defense budget; anyone who does so will be kicked out within 24 hours.

Regarding Yamit, Minister Sharon said there was no problem in using force to evacuate the residents. However, the issue is a sensitive one and there is the danger of a confrontation between Jews, so there is no need for rashness -- for political reasons as well.

As for policy in the territories, anyone willing to fight against the PLO is a partner of Israel's, Sharon said, even if his political stands are not identical to ours. He was sharply critical of those who term residents in the territories who cooperate with Israel "Quislings."

When he spoke about the memorandum of understanding, Sharon used maps to show members of the Likud faction the process of the Soviet Union's encroachment into various regions in the Persian Gulf and Africa. This is a threat to Israel's security, Sharon argued. Africa is full of Russian tanks. Agreement was reached in Washington on Israeli-U.S. cooperation in development plans in several African states with U.S. funding. He attacked Alignment members who were given details of the memorandum before it was signed and who had even recommended that it be signed -- but had then publicly condemned its contents.

By the way, Sharon did not spare the press in his criticism. The reporters know very little, he said. I cut them off from some of their sources of information, and then I saw how little they know.

This was a summary of the remarks of Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon yesterday in a meeting with members of the Likud faction that was closed to the press.

SHARON ON POSSIBLE U.S. INTERVENTION IN SYRIA

TA091036 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Dec 81 p 1

[Yitzhaq Shor report]

[Excerpt] At a meeting of the Likud Knesset faction yesterday, Minister Ari'el Sharon said that the question of whether the United States would intervene in the event of war between Israel and Syria had not been mentioned at all in the memorandum of strategic understanding and Israel had not even asked for it. In contrast to this, the memorandum does include the possibility of U.S. intervention in the event of Russian, Cuban or Vietnamese crews appearing in Syria to man the 1,250 unmanned tanks stored in Syria by the Soviets. The minister also disclosed that there are 1,200 unmanned Soviet tanks in Libya and 1,000 unmanned Soviet tanks in the southern part of east Africa. The minister claimed that there was a danger that the Western countries would lose all interest in our area because of the Soviet infiltration and taking over control, and so the memorandum of understanding was of particular importance. According to him, the memorandum includes intelligence cooperation that cannot be specified as well as matters of security procurement. According to the minister, there are three confrontation reserves surrounding Israel: terror, the Arab countries, and the Soviet Union and its satellites. The minister also disclosed that the memorandum of strategic understanding guarantees joint U.S.-Israeli actions in African countries, with the technology being that of Israel and the financing coming from the United States.

RADIO REPORTS SITUATION IN GAZA, WEST BANK

TA100948 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Most shops, businesses and schools opened in Gaza this morning. Only about 1/10 of the shops are still closed, some of them by order of the Military Government. Our correspondent, Bassam Ja'bar, reports that about 1 hour ago the Military Government allowed journalists to enter the city.

This move is regarded as a signal that life is returning to normal. Nevertheless, our correspondent notes that several incidents occurred this morning in which tires were set on fire at the main entrance to Gaza and in Bayt Lahiyahm north of Gaza.

Beginning today, several dozen local physicians and pharmacists will be brought to trial at the military court in Gaza because they did not open their shops and for violations in the payment of value added tax.

Meanwhile, our correspondent has learned that the Military Government is contemplating the possibility of lifting the curfew in Rafah either this evening or tomorrow morning.

In contrast with the improved situation in the Gaza Strip, several municipalities in Judaea and Samaria are on strike today. Our correspondents Arye Gus and Pinhas 'Inbari report that the municipal officials in Hebron, Nabulus, Qalqilyah, Janin, 'Anabta and Tulkarm are striking today. The mayor of Nabulus has said that the strike was being waged to protest the attitude of the Military Government toward the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip and the implementation of the Civilian Administration in the territories.

Our correspondents also report that studies were disrupted today in several towns in Judaea and Samaria and several incidents occurred where stones were hurled at Israeli vehicles.

BEGIN TO BE RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL 'THIS WEEK'

TA100915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] This morning, it was reported from Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem that Prime Minister Menahem Begin is recuperating from his injury. He is feeling well, the pain has largely abated and he will be released from the hospital this week.

Hadassah hospital physicians denied reports this morning to the effect that Mr Begin was being treated against thrombosis. The denial was made to our reporter Meron Tzur.

Condition Described

TA100936 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has for some days now been receiving treatment for blood coagulation.

The Hadassah hospital physicians have begun administering anticoagulation drugs to the prime minister to prevent a blood clot (thrombosis) from forming in his injured leg. It was reported yesterday from the Prime Minister's Office that Mr Begin is feeling well and that he is improving.

An HA'ARETZ reporter notes that the prime minister has not seen any visitors for 10 days. His associates attribute this to his pain and to his desire not to appear before others in this condition. At the same time, they add that he is getting better.

PERES FORESEES SAUDI ARABIA MAKING PEACE

TA100735 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres foresees Saudi Arabia as being the next country to establish peace with Israel. Speaking before the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organizations, Peres said Saudi Arabia needs peace and cannot afford the possibility of Israel attacking its oilfields. Peres added that Jordan will apparently be the third country to sign a peace treaty with Israel. King Husayn, Peres noted, needs Israel but cannot today sign a treaty on his own.

EGYPTIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL ON SAUDI PEACE PLAN

TA091110 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Dec 81 p 3

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] A counsellor in the Egyptian Embassy in Israel, Dr Ahmad Jum'ah, says that there are positive elements in the Saudi peace plan which Israel should encourage and should react to moderately and flexibly.

In an article he published in the latest edition of MIGVAN [Labor Party ideological monthly], Dr Jum'ah writes that comprehensive peace in the region and a solution of the Palestinian problem will be achieved only when Israel grasps, on the basis of its good experience with Egypt, that its survival and security will be best ensured through a peace that does not involve any harming of the legitimate rights of others, but does meet Israel's basic security requirements. This will necessarily be a gradual process which will also be accompanied by a fundamental shift in the Arab's negative attitude toward Israel.

It is against this background that Dr Jum'ah explains the fact that Egypt found several positive aspects in the Saudi plan -- a plan that shows that the Camp David process has, if only indirectly, brought about another significant achievement. In Jum'ah's view, to dismiss the plan out of hand, or to attack its proposers, is a reaction that will only increase lack of trust and ill feeling. The Egyptian counsellor stresses that Egypt sees no alternative to the Camp David process, though the Saudi proposal or similar ideas will help create a more positive atmosphere for expanding the peace process and for encouraging other Arab elements to join it.

The best answer from Israel to the Saudi proposals, the writer believes, is relative moderation and greater flexibility, which would give a major push to the autonomy talks and the peace process.

HA'ARETZ COMMENTARY BY ARENS ON STRATEGIC ACCORD

TA091242 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Dec 81 p 9

[Moshe Arens commentary" "Misunderstandings Over the Memorandum of Understanding"]

[Text] Nobody was surprised that the communist-controlled Hadash faction was opposed to the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States. They will oppose any step toward tightening Israeli-U.S. relations. But it was surprising that the Alignment faction submitted a motion of nonconfidence in the government on this issue. For years Israel-U.S. relations have gained the support of the two great Knesset blocs, the Likud and the Alignment. If there has been any sphere in Israel's foreign affairs and defense policy about which it was difficult to distinguish between the coalition and opposition positions -- whether during Alignment rule or that of the Likud -- it was the sphere of cooperation between the two countries. In the United States, too, these relations have won broad support from both parties and the result was that there was no doubt for all those years about the further development of Israeli- U.S. ties, even when administrations in Israel or the United States changed.

What led the Alignment to vigorously oppose the memorandum of understanding and even to talk of its cancellation if and when the Alignment returns to power? It is difficult to rid oneself of the impression that this opposition originated, first and foremost, in the desire to demonstrate opposition to the government, or, at best, in an attempt to read into the memorandum things that are not written in it.

The opposition spokesman said a great deal about the commitment the United States took upon itself, on the surface, to send its forces to the aid of the State of Israel in wartime. On the one hand, it was explained that such a commitment contradicted Israel's traditional position, that it has known and will know how to defend itself with its own forces and it does not want the intervention of U.S. troops for the purpose of its defense. On the other hand, the opposition spokesmen explained that the U.S. commitment in any case was not valid because of the legislative restrictions applicable to the U.S. president.

And it is indeed important Israel should persist in its policy of guaranteeing its independent ability to defend itself at times of need and it is correct that a deviation from this policy could only damage Israeli-U.S. relations -- and, because of this, it would not contribute to Israel's security. However, anyone reading the text of the memorandum of understanding will not find any such U.S. commitment in it.

A second, almost an alternative claim was aimed at the "commitment" Israel, on the surface, took upon itself to send IDF soldiers to places far from the country's borders in order to defend the interests of the United States. Scenarios were presented in which Israeli soldiers would be used in Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. There is no knowing if there will ever be circumstances in which Israel will decide that guaranteeing its interests requires a military action far from its borders and that such an action would fit in with U.S. interests in the area, but it is clear that the memorandum of understanding does not include any Israeli commitments to actions of this type.

Military pacts generally include a definition of the conditions under which each of the allies guarantees to come to the aid of its comrade. If Israel and the United States were to decide to sign a military pact, it may be assumed that it would include similar clauses. However, a distinction should be drawn between a military pact and a memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation; those who criticize the memorandum of understanding as though it were a military pact are tilting at windmills.

The third claim against the memorandum of understanding is connected with the specific mention in the memorandum of the USSR. According to this claim, this will arouse the anger of the Kremlin authorities against Israel and expose it to the danger of hostile actions by the USSR. It is true that the basis for strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States is the common concern about a Soviet infiltration of the Middle East -- and infiltration that could cause a cessation of the oil flow to the Western world and, at the same time, Israel's existence. The threat is clear to everyone and it is natural that the countries facing this threat should want to deploy jointly against it. It is important to remember that the Russian threat to Israel is not only by way of being a forecast of possible future situations, but conspicuous and specific Russian threats have already been made by Kremlin rulers against Israel in the past.

Who does not remember Marshal Bulganin's threats during the Sinai campaign in 1956? Who has forgotten the Soviet Union's part in spurring on the moves that led to the outbreak of the 6-Day War and its threats against Israel during the last days of that war? In the war of attrition Soviet pilots fought Air Force pilots over Sinai and at the end of the Yom Kippur War the Russians threatened direct involvement in the fighting. In all these cases the United States helped to deter the Russians from translating the threats into the language of action. The State of Israel does not boast of being capable of standing up to the conventional and unconventional force of the Soviet Union and it is natural that it should want to rely on the deterrent force of the United States against this threat.

Under these circumstances, are there any grounds for claiming that the Soviet Union should not have been mentioned in the memorandum of understanding? Or that, superficially, there is a real difference between a memorandum that uses the name of the Soviet Union and one that does not specifically mention it when the memorandum's main objective is to deal with strategic deployment against an overt and defined threat by the Soviet Union? Is it conceivable that the Soviet Union would not have understood the objective of the memorandum if its name had not been mentioned, or that the rulers of Moscow are especially sensitive to plainly spoken words? It seems that exactly the contrary might be true, that if the objective of the memorandum is to strengthen the deterrent capability against the Soviet Union's threats, the more open and unambiguous its language, the better it will meet its goal.

There are those who claim that the memorandum will lead to a worsening of the Israel-Soviet relations or make an improvement of these relations more difficult. But anyone making this claim apparently forgets that Israel is one of the few countries with whom the USSR has severed its diplomatic relations and that the current state of relations is a direct and sole result of the Soviet Union's policy toward Israel. If matters depended on Israel, there would already have been diplomatic relations. It is clear that the Soviet Union is deliberately conducting a policy hostile to Israel and it believes that this policy serves its interests. Under these conditions, it is not to be assumed that Israeli deployment against this policy will lead to an additional worsening. It appears that the Soviet Union, which is known for deciding on its moves on the basis of considerations of force and benefit, would improve its attitude toward Israel only if the latter is shown to be in a position of strength. If the memorandum of understanding strengthens Israel's position, it will also improve the chances for an improvement in the relations between Israel and the USSR in the future. It should not be forgotten that the Soviet Union maintains diplomatic relations not only with its main, avowed rivals, the United States and China, but also with NATO countries which have joined together in a military pact for defense against the Soviet Union's threats.

A claim raised against the memorandum of understanding which requires an answer is that the cooperation between Israel and the United States could have been continued without signing the memorandum. According to this argument, the memorandum of understanding adds nothing to the written and unwritten understandings already in existence, and so is superfluous. It seems that several people in the U.S. administration have made similar claims out of concern that the memorandum of understanding with Israel would have a bad effect on U.S. relations with the Arab world. It is true that cooperation between Israel and the United States would certainly have continued without a memorandum of understanding and it may be assumed that it would even have been possible to expand it without the memorandum, but it was actually Israel that should have been interested in signing it.

At a time when the U.S. Government is presenting such Arab countries as Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan as allies, it is important for it to demonstrate that it knows how to distinguish between those countries, whose ties with the West are based on material interests in the current circumstances, and Israel, which belongs to the free world not only because of common interests, but first of all because of common values. Based on the angry reactions from Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Libya and a PLO spokesman that have been arriving ever since it was signed, it is possible to conclude that the memorandum of understanding hit its target.

It appears that the opposition to the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States is largely based on a misunderstanding about its contents. The memorandum institutionalizes the existing strategic relations between the two countries and creates foundations for broadening and deepening them in the future. It may be assumed that it reflects the aspirations of most of the country's citizens, even though the motion of nonconfidence put forward by the Alignment faction in the Knesset could create a different impression.

AFRICAN COUNTRIES ANNOUNCE CHANGE IN ATTITUDE

TA091252 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Dec 81 p 1

[Ilan Kfir report]

[Text] Several African countries not included in the framework of the visit by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon have recently sent messages to Israel saying that they are giving positive consideration to modifying their relations with Israel.

These countries want to establish ties with Israel and have requested Jerusalem to send experts to them. Additional Israeli experts have recently gone to the black continent, including four countries visited by the minister of defense, in order to begin the implementation of agreements signed during the visit.

Since Mr Sharon's return from Africa Israel's relations with the countries of the black continent have become closer and, according to a senior political source, the agreements signed between the defense minister and the continent's leaders have had reverberations.

The committee for joint coordination of the ministers of foreign affairs and defense held a meeting this week on the issue of relations with African countries.

France Aids Efforts

TA082044 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] France has been recently acting behind the scenes to aid the resumption of ties between Israel and the African countries. This is reported by the French media today, Zaire's President Mobuto Sese Seko is now paying an official visit to Paris and in his public statements he has time and again hinted that relations between Israel and the African countries may resume. Our correspondent Yo'av Toqer reports from Paris:

[Begin videotape] The French efforts on Israel's behalf in the last 2 days, both in Israel and in the official and semiofficial channels in Paris, have been joined by an African dimension. President Mobuto, currently on an unofficial [as heard] visit to France, heard from no less than the French president himself at the Elysee Palace, expressions of encouragement for the rapprochement between Israel and Africa.

President Mobuto, uttering very few works about it, talked about developments that have occurred under the surface, some of them on the direct plane between Israel and the African capitals and some of them through Western mediators. The visit of Zaire's president to Paris has enabled French diplomacy to suggest goodwill also in this direction. Moreover, hints about French intervention on behalf of Israel in Africa are being spread at a propitious time: During French External Relations Minister Cheysson's visit to Jerusalem. [end videotape]

POLITICAL CIRCLES EVALUATE CHEYSSON'S VISIT

TA091819 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Dec 81

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson's visit to Israel represents a change in relations with France and it may also have an impact on Israel's relations with all of Europe. This is how political circles in Jerusalem summed up the visit this evening. In a meeting with political correspondents, Israel's political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffers, reports:

Political circles in Jerusalem believe that Claude Cheysson's visit will be coupled with practical achievements on various levels. In the last few years Israel's status in the EEC has eroded. France will in the future help us overcome these obstacles -- obstacles which were put in the way of Israeli agricultural produce. Minister Cheysson uttered very sharp words here; it would be a treacherous act on the part of Europe if Israel's agricultural production is adversely affected as a result of the expansion of the EEC. The attitude of the EEC countries toward Israel currently borders on scandal, Cheysson said.

In the talks with Minister Shamir, the possibility was also discussed that Israel may soon resume diplomatic relations with several African countries. France will also extend its aid on this issue.

Shamir and Cheysson decided on special communications arrangements and they will hold frequent consultations in the future. As Yitzhaq Shamir phrased it -- and he has not been known to exaggerate -- a new era in the relations between the two countries is coming.

Political circles also expressed their belief that Israel's relations with other European countries would also improve as a result of the strengthening of relations with France. The foreign ministers of Italy, Germany and Britain will arrive in Jerusalem in the next few months.

Here are some other evaluations given by the political circles this evening. On the eve of the brief visit by the U.S. secretary of state, the circles said that Haig wants to discuss the status of the autonomy talks. As for Philip Habib's mission, Israel cannot discern any progress in the issues being handled by the U.S. mediator.

Concerning the publications about the defense minister's visit to Africa, the circles said that they did not help in any way; one should only hope that they would not cause any damage. They added that the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation signed with the United States was not related to the resumption of relations with African countries. However, there is indeed a relation between the strategic cooperation with the United States and the attitude of Third World countries toward Israel.

POST DETAILS SHAMIR-CHEYSSON AGREEMENTS

TA100639 Jerusalem POST in English 10 Dec 81 pp 1, 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Text] France's Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson pledged here this week that his country will actively help Israel in its efforts to reestablish diplomatic ties with Africa.

Cheysson, who himself has wide-ranging personal connections with African leaders, told Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that even some African states aligned with the pro-Soviet camp have indicated that they would like to restore relations with Israel now that the pullback from Sinai is about to be completed.

Disclosing this yesterday, Israeli officials added that Cheysson was "very optimistic" and said it "should not be difficult" for Israel to renew its ties with Africa. He said many key figures in Africa recall "with tears in their eyes' the goodwill and efficacy of Israeli experts who ran cooperation programmes in their countries before the rupture of relations in 1973.

The officials were sharply critical of the publicity that followed Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon's recent "secret" swing through a number of African countries. The publicity has been "damaging" and was "a bad thing," the officials said. They hoped that the desire of several African states to restore full ties with Israel would "overcome their fears which were caused or compounded by this publicity."

The officials noted that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met (separately) with six African foreign ministers during the autumn UN General Assembly -- but at their request, made sure that no word of the meetings leaked out.

The officials also spoke of "lack of coordination" and even "rivalry" between the Foreign Ministry and the Defence Ministry over Israel's still semi-clandestine activities in Africa, but they said these difficulties are "normal and not a major problem."

There is agreement between the two ministries, though, on the link between growing Israeli cooperation projects with pro-Western African States and the recently-concluded strategic accord with the U.S. Many African statesmen complain that the U.S. neglects African affairs, the officials explained, and they see in Israel a close ally of the United States which could "represent" African concerns to the administration in Washington and catalyze closer U.S.-African ties.

The African states, like others elsewhere, have also been impressed by the fact that the U.S. was willing to enter into a strategic accord with Israel, the officials said.

It is still unclear whether Egypt too will actively help Israel in its quest to restore ties with Africa, the officials continued. At present there is no hard evidence of Egypt's behind-the-scenes role, they said, though there is no evidence that Egypt is actually hindering the Israeli advances.

The officials said Israel had addressed itself to the late President Anwar as-Sadat on this issue and will take it up with President Husni Mubarak too.

POST: CIRCLES FEEL FRENCH POLICY NOT NEW

TA100640 Jerusalem POST in English 10 Dec 81 p 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Text] The Israeli officials ascribed what they see as the French change [in its policy toward Israel] in large measure to French President Mitterrand's personal position, noting that under the French Constitution the president has very broad powers to shape policy.

Following the talks here between Minister of External Relations Cheysson and Foreign Minister Shamir, the officials summed up the new French policy as follows:

-- France now looks favourably upon the Camp David agreements in its public pronouncements;

-- France now says that if favours free negotiations between the parties, and no longer supports any imposition of terms upon them, as was envisaged in the Venice declaration;

-- Cheysson spoke repeatedly of "progress in steps" towards peace, another way of saying "step by step" -- the phrase so favoured by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in the mid-1970's and so strongly opposed by France until now.

The officials did not deny that France's basic belief continues to be that a peace settlement must include self-determination for the Palestinians, but the "agreement to disagree" on this key point did not, they indicated, in any way mar the warm rapport established between Cheysson and Shamir this week.

The Israeli officials were especially gratified by Cheysson's sympathetic response to Shamir's expression of concern for Israel's agricultural exports following Spain's accession to the EEC in 1983-4. In the past, France was unhelpful towards Israel in its dealings with the EEC, the officials recalled.

On the multination force for Sinai, Cheysson indicated to his Israeli hosts that the question of France's, Britain's, Italy's and Holland's participation now rests squarely with the British who currently preside over the EEC Council of Ministers.

France had been reluctant to join the force, but once the decision of the four was made, Cheysson said, France did not attach "conditions" to its participation and accepted as self-evident that the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers [MFO] was based on the peace treaty.

According to Israeli and other diplomatic sources, Cheysson gave the impression that the four's participation is not yet to be taken for granted, and could still come unstuck.

According to diplomatic sources, Cheysson seemed to think it would be no great tragedy if the Europeans did not take part in the MFO in the end.

In London, the British Government has been stunned and angered by reports on Cheysson's critique of Europe on Middle East diplomacy.

The Foreign Office said that an official record of his remark was still being awaited.

HA'ARETZ EDITORIAL ON FRENCH ATTITUDES

TA091044 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Dec 81 p 9

[Editorial: "A Substantive Turn -- But a Partial One"]

[Text] Mr Claude Cheysson sang very different tunes from those we have been used to from French foreign ministers since 1967. The Venice initiative is behind us, he said. France recognizes the U.S. share in the peace process; no comprehensive peace is possible in the Middle East without the Egyptian-Israeli peace; France will neither give lessons to nor teach the peoples of the area; as long as Mr Mitterrand is the president of France, there will be no French initiative in the area; if Israel is threatened, France will stand at its side; the nations of the area must be allowed to solve their problems through negotiations among themselves and it is not the business of other countries to intervene -- this is how the guest expressed himself in public.

We are almost unwilling to believe what we heard, but we were not mistaken and we are entitled to feel relief. Official France, which has been standing against us now for more than 14 years and headed the opponents of the Camp David process, has abandoned that position. We are faced with more than a change in style; the above quotations symbolize a substantive turn. We can point to a series of reasons for this: President Mitterrand's adherence to his basic belief in the justness of the Zionist idea; the oil surplus and, as a result of this, the decreased Arab influence; a desire to demonstrate independence from Britain and rapprochement with Washington; the staying power of the sympathy for Israel, which did not disappear among broad public groups in France even during the hostility or coldness of the regimes of De Gaulle, Pompidou and Giscard. But whatever the reasons, it is the result that matters and the result has something in it that gives us a feeling of satisfaction.

On the other hand, the substantive change is far from being a total one. It is only partial and, just as we note all the positive in Cheysson's remarks, we must also listen attentively to remarks that are not to our liking. France, he said, is prepared to negotiate an arms deal with Israel "or with other countries in the Middle East." This means that Paris is not blocking its route to the Arab markets. To the question about what the French position would be on the nuclear issue, he replied that France is prepared to supply nuclear technology to any country "on the condition that it will give assurances on preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons;" and everyone knows just how far open this formulation leaves the door to nuclear aid to Iraq, too.

And this is not all, Mr Cheysson is wiser than Mr Jimmy Carter, Lord Carrington and the chancellor of Austria and so he is clever enough to evaluate Israel's sensitivity to the Palestinian problem. On this matter he was careful not to call the baby by its name, but there is no doubt what and whom he meant. "There is a nation in the area whose rights have not been given the form of a homeland. President Mitterrand said that there are truths that must apply to everyone, for otherwise there are people who are above other people and this is an insufferable situation... We will rely on the peace you have created with Egypt; try to broaden the process and France will stand beside you. There are people from whom you can demand recognition and a guarantee of peaceful life, and you should give them recognition and the same guarantee."

It is very doubtful whether the French minister for external affairs is likely to be convinced of our foreign minister's claim that Jordan is the Palestinian state. In fact, concerning the Palestinian issue, he told us in a contentious tone, using pleasant words, what other foreign statesmen have said, and still say. And if the Government of Israel does not reach an agreement with Egypt and the United States about full autonomy for the Arabs of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip -- we may expect French willingness to support the search for "other solution" despite all the courteous friendliness exhibited by Mr Cheysson, whose sincerity we have no reason to doubt.

MA'ARIV COMMENTATOR CRITICIZES HABIB MISSION

TA081500 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Dec 81 p 5

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Philip Habib's 'Infinite Patience'"]

[Text] The prime minister's personal physician, Prof Marvin Gottesman, yesterday examined U.S. mediator Philip Habib, who was suffering from slight fatigue in the wake of his tortuous wanderings between Beirut and Damascus, Damascus and Amman, Jerusalem and Riyadh and back again to Jerusalem.

However, Habib's true weakness in this case was not necessarily his physical weakness - although one cannot, of course, be indifferent to external symptoms in a person who has already had a serious heart attack -- but a political weakness, which explains why he returned emptyhanded and why none of his trips in the region has produced concrete results. He is leaving with exactly what he brought to the region: nothing.

From here he will go on to Lebanon and then to Brussels, where Secretary of State Haig will be, in order to report to him and then he will return to Washington to report to President Reagan on the results of his mission.

The original purpose of the mission with which President Reagan charged Habib -- if anyone still remembers -- was to bring about the removal of the Syrian missiles from the Lebanese Al-Biqa' against the background of Israel's repeated declarations that if the Syrians did not withdraw them voluntarily, Israel would have to destroy them. The fact that the Israeli Air Force had already been ordered to do just that -- and according to the revelation of the prime minister (who was at that time also defense minister) was prevented from doing so only by cloudy weather -- only showed the United States that the situation was very serious. If the United States had done nothing concrete to calm Israel who knows how far things would have deteriorated: The Syrians might not be able to swallow the blow and would perforce have stepped up their provocations, which would naturally have drawn a fitting reaction from Israel. In short, a new round of hot war would break out in the region, with Soviet President Brezhnev -- whose country would not be able to take an Israeli strike against Syria -- threatening from the other side.

The impression gleaned from this Habib round -- in fact it is far more than just an impression -- is that all of his trips to the region have been aimed solely at preserving momentum, no matter how barren, as long as Israel was given no pretext to respond to what Habib terms a "minor hitch" [takala ketana] in the cease-fire. The U.S. mediator heard some tough talk from Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. Sharon employed a firm tone to say that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had told Habib in a softer tone: Israel would not wait indefinitely.

Habib could assume that this is a "natural" reaction on Israel's part, without there being any real intention behind it. On the other hand, the defense minister declared this week that any cease-fire violations by the terrorists would not oblige Israel to react as it did last summer -- that is, artillery fire against artillery fire and shelling against shelling. The hint was too transparent for the United States not to grasp what was meant. It must now be clear to all that if the situation deteriorates and the cease-fire violations persist, even though Israel does not want to initiate a war, there will be no choice but to take massive action, to put it mildly.

Worrisome indications have been picked up recently by Jerusalem. The Syrians and the terrorists are digging in and the aim is to draw the Soviet Union into a war at the crucial moment: when the Syrians will see that this time the Israelis are serious and will not make do with just a "local" reaction, as they have in the past.

Against this background, Habib's visit this time was of considerable importance, but the results are far from encouraging. It is true that in Riyadh he was told that the Saudis are again ready to be involved in quieting the situation: It is doubtful, however, whether in view of the Syrians' repeated declarations -- and first and foremost those of Al-Asad -- one may anticipate any greater Saudi achievements than in the past. And after all, the reason Habib came here was to solve the problem of how to get the Syrian missiles removed.

What was the sum total of his visit?

All he could say to Shamir was that "patience is needed." We heard exactly the same words from him after his first visit to the region on his mission, many long months ago.

Now Habib will return for consultations in Washington and will remain there until the United States sees that events are heating up in the region. Then he will come for another round and so on and so forth.

It would perhaps be no exaggeration to say that on this issue Israel will find no salvation from the United States. If Israel views the ongoing situation as dangerous, it will have no choice but to act on its own. Once again it has been demonstrated that Washington has just one thing to propose to Israel: "patience..."

PAPERS ON ARMS DEALS, HABIB MISSION, DRUZE

TA100740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] MAPAM's 'AL HAMISHMAR discusses Defense Minister Sharon's charge that the local dealers have a stranglehold on Israel's arms exports. The paper grants that arms deals, by their very nature, are not publicized. However, one might have expected that at least the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee would have been let in on the secret. Did the committee know that the Israeli private dealers have a stranglehold on the trade, as Sharon puts it, or did this damning evidence never reach even such a close and responsible forum as the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee? As for Arye Ganger's candidacy for a senior post in the Defense Ministry, 'AL HAMISHMAR says no talk of arms dealers and their alleged stranglehold can make such a choice legitimate. If the stranglehold really exists then it should be broken immediately and investigated right to the end without favoritism.

The independent HA'ARETZ discusses the Habib mission saying the only benefit the U.S. envoy has to show for all his efforts is the cease-fire in Lebanon. It is only natural that the population of the Galilee should ask from time to time what will happen if the terrorists, for their own reasons, should dare to violate the cease-fire. It does not take much imagination to see how the IDF will react. Nevertheless, the government is acting wisely in that it is not putting a time limit on the duration and validity of the cease-fire. Israel is strong enough to put the initiative for breaking the cease-fire back into the hands of the terrorists, if they want to appear as aggressors in the eyes of the world -- HA'ARETZ says.

The Histadrut's paper DAVAR comments on yesterday's admission by the coordinator of activities in the administered territories, General Matt, that the Military Government mishandled the affair of the Golan Heights Druze by pressuring them to accept Israeli identity cards and arousing their resistance. The paper says the government has not learned the lesson of the Jerusalem law episode, another incident in which it tried to grab more than it was really fit to hope for only to cause unnecessary political damage.

There are people who have failed to learn from both errors and are not pushing for the application of Israeli law to the Golan Heights. All that this will achieve will be to bring the Golan area into the spotlight, as if we did not have enough problems with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The proposed Golan law would also provide the Syrians with an excuse to disturb the quiet that has prevailed in the Golan Heights border since the end of the Yom Kippur War, DAVAR warns.

ARMS EXPORTS REPORTEDLY UP BY 33 PERCENT

TA091125 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Israel has increased its arms sales by 33 percent in the past 3 months, as compared with last year. This has been learned by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal. Recently, since the negotiations on arms sales were taken out of the hands of the arms dealers, a special forum in the Defense Ministry has dealt with this, and the intention is to employ this method in order to exhaust the political advantages to be gained in arms deals.

BRIEFS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATION WITH CANADA -- Israel and Canada will cooperate in the field of telecommunications. Communications Minister Mordekhay Tzipori visited Canada recently and agreed with the minister of communications there on cooperation in science and everything connected with communications methods and equipment. Canada will grant Israel preferential terms for loans for purchases Israel will make in Canada. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Dec 81 TA]

REPORTAGE ON AFRICAN-ARAB CONFERENCE IN LUANDA

Mengistu Message

AB081533 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1300 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Addis Ababa, 8 Dec (ANGOP) -- In a message sent on Sunday to the Afro-Arab conference, which is continuing its deliberations in Luanda, the Ethiopian head of state, Mengistu Haile Mariam, said the Arab and African people not only have a similar cultural and historical heritage but they are also united by a common destiny to be free of imperialist, colonalist and racist oppression.

The message referred to the recent aggression committed against Angola, Mozambique, Seychelles and Lebanon as glaring examples of the sinister designs of the imperialist and racist alliance.

In his message to the Afro-Arab conference, the Ethiopian head of state denounces imperialism's raving conspiracies against Libya, Ethiopia, South Yemen and the PLO. The strategic alliance concluded by the United States, Israel and South Africa, the message adds, are nothing but futile attempts to alter the inevitable course of history.

The Ethiopian head of state unreservedly condemns the recent South African attack against the Petrangol refinery in Luanda which he described as an imperialist and racist provocation.

'Arafat Greeting

AB091306 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] The chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat, has sent to the chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the republic, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, a message in which he extends his best wishes to conference participants. 'Arafat, in his message, expresses his desire to participate in the Afro-Arab conference taking place in the Angolan capital. But due to unforseen circumstances, this did not materialize, especially following the visit of the special American envoy, Philip Habib, to the region and also because of the Zionist authorities' intention to launch a new aggression against Lebanon and Libya and liquidate the Palestinian revolution.

The American imperialists and their puppets and the Israeli State intend to launch a great invasion against the Arab nation, the message indicates, adding that Africa also is not spared in their plan. The Americans, the PLO leader writes, have shown their determination to push many African countries to renew their diplomatic relations with Israel, adding that there is no doubt that they would like to achieve their aim by using racist South Africa.

We are convinced that American and Israeli aggression against our people lies within the framework of the strategic alliance between the two states, an aggression which is followed by a series of attacks by racist South Africa directly against African states or through mercenaries, such as the aggression against Angola and the Seychelles, the message emphasizes.

The PLO president finally reaffirmed his desire to visit the People's Republic of Angola in spite of the difficult moment in which the Afro-Arab solidarity conference is being held. He expresses his conviction that this meeting constitutes a reliable way of making the African community hear the voice of Palestine.

Al-Qadhdhafi Support

AB091753 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] The Libyan leader, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, has sent a message of support to the president of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, on the occasion of the holding of the Afro-Arab solidarity conference. In this message, he states this meeting is being held at a time when circumstances have brought about the urgent need to translate into deeds Afro-Arab solidarity in order to properly face the colonialists, the imperialists and their agents.

After emphasizing the responsibility incumbent on progressive peoples of the African continent and the Arab world, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi stressed that we are bound to assume a great responsibility in the defense of the cause of freedom in all parts of the world. Stressing Libya's determination to defend the just cause of the people, the Libya head of state affirmed in his message that the helicopter-borne regiment which brought an end to the Chadian war is ready to go to any part of the world to participate in the struggle against the forces of evil.

The African and Arab peoples' struggle cannot be separated, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi wrote, after mentioning the various bonds which unite the people of the two regions, especially cultural and historic.

JANA Report

LD092124 Tripoli JANA in English 1845 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Luanda, 9 Dec (JANA) -- The Arab - African conference being held here entered its fourth day today. JANA correspondent in the Angolan capital reports that a majority of delegations taking part in the conference agreed to form a permanent secretariat for the conference, the headquarters of which will be specified later.

Yesterday, the conference heard the leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's cable to the Angolan president which received warm applause and complete satisfaction.

Conference Declaration

AB100807 Paris AFP in English 0718 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Luanda, 10 Dec (AFP) -- An Afro-Arab solidarity conference hosted by the Angolan Government wound up here Wednesday night by adopting an action program designed to strengthen Africa and the Arab world against the imperialism of the United States and its local allies, Israel and South Africa.

[Words indistinct] international committee was charged with studying the establishment of a joint fund to assist the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) fighting Pretoria's troops in Namibia, and the liberation front battling Morocco for possession of Western Sahara.

(?The assembly was marked by) vigorous protests from leftwing Moroccan opposition envoy Mohamed Ait Kaddour of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP). He complained that in a conference message sent to Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the Polisario campaign against Moroccan Government troops was likened to the PLO's fight against Israel and freedom movement actions against Pretoria. That was insulting and unacceptable, Mr Kaddour insisted. The conference nonetheless adopted the message by acclamation.

Mr Kaddou, other opposition figures from Morroco, and opponents of the regimes in Somalia, Egypt, Iraq and Sudan, ran into difficulties from the Angolan authorities when they came here on Sunday to take part in the solidarity conference.

After intervention from Arab delegates, they were allowed to stay and join the discussions, the Morrocans as delegates of their country and the others as members of the congress of the Arab people. Only the Somali had to leave.

A notable absentee from the largely Libyan-arranged conference was PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat, who sent a message of solidarity.

The conference issued a joint Luanda declaration, which pronounced support for the PLO, for South Africa's banned African National Congress (ANC) as the principal movement fighting apartheid, for independence for Namibia under SWAPO's guidance, and for Polisario's leadership in enforcing respect for Western Saharan self-determination and independence.

The declaration said that American military escalation is the most dangerous factor in the current imperialist offenisve in Africa and the Arab world.

The conference agreed to launch a campaign to have foreign bases and military alliances dismantled, and to seek condemnation of what it called the Tel Aviv-Pretoria axis and its strategic alliance with the United States.

The preparatory international committee was instructed to make contacts and carry out studies with a view to forming a more permanent Afro-Arab organizational structure.

OAU SECRETARY GENERAL COMMENTS ON CHAD SITUATION

AB081153 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Excerpts] OAU Secretary General Edem Kodjo and Jean-Pierre (Catangri), a French financier representing French nationals resident in Africa, this morning were received one after the other by President Kerekou. The OAU secretary general later kindly discussed some current Chadian problems with (Ede Palley):

[Begin recording] My visit to Benin falls within the framework of the periodic consultations the secretary general must have with OAU heads of state. It was in this context that I had the honor of being received this morning by the Beninese head of state. The president and I discussed some major problems now facing our continent and on which I obtained his views.

[Question] During the recent Nairobi conference, certain measures were taken for the dispatch of the inter-African peacekeeping force to Chad. Would you please tell us about the present situation in that country?

[Answer] The situation is as you know it: Some countries are now sending troops to Chad. As you know, the various meetings held recently were aimed at defining clearly the ways and means of sending these troops. The problems of the structure of the force and of its command have been solved. The question now is whether these troops will be rapidly sent to the field in accordance with the procedure established.

[Question] Some press reports have specifically accused the OAU of somehow delaying the dispatch of the force to Chad and this explains the resumption of hostilities in northern Chad. What do you think about this accusation?

[Answer] In fact, I don't think the OAU can be accused of dillydallying or of fear. The problem is that the withdrawal of the Libyan troops surprised everyone. Authorities in Ndjamena asked the Libyans to withdraw their forces before the end of this but the Libyans immediately left the country after the withdrawal demand. Moreover, the deployment of this African force cannot be made in just 1 day; surely, some time is required for this. The resumption of the fighting cannot be attributed to the OAU but I think to the conditions in which the Libyan troops left the country.

[Question] Under this condition, do you think the inter-African force can really and effectively play its role.?

[Answer] I think it can really and effectively play its role. This is because I think that our Chadian brothers really need this force. [end recording]

Lome Statement

AB091645 Paris AFP in English 1603 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Lome, Togo, 9 Dec (AFP) -- The OAU has done its best to establish the inter-African peacekeeping force in Chad in the minimum possible time, OAU Secretary-General Edem Kodjo said here today.

Mr Kodjo, who was speaking to journalists after talks with Togolese leader General Gnassingbe Eyadema, noted with satisfaction that some 2,000 men (from Nigeria, Senegal and Zaire) were already in Chad ready to start their mission.

Togo, along with Benin and Guinea, also pledged troops for the peacekeeping force, but none have yet arrived. Sources close to the operation are now skeptical that these three countries will send contingents.

Mr Kodjo noted that it was the first time the OAU had mounted such a force, and repeated earlier statements that its job would be to maintain peace and safeguard Chad's security without fighting against other factions opposed to Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei's government.

OAU COMMITTEE URGES AID FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

EA091336 Dar es Salaam in English to East Africa 0400 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] The OAU liberation committee has urged the UN and its specialized agencies to make it a mandatory act the granting of assistance to national liberation movements by the UN family. The call was made by the executive secretary of the committee, Ndugu Hashim Mbitu at the official opening of the 5-day consultative meeting on the UN Development Programme [UNDP] of assistance for national liberational movements in Africa for the coming cycle of 1982-86 which is being held at the Kilimanjaro Hotel in Dar es Salaam. Ndugu Mbitu said that the meeting, for the first time, would give a chance to the national liberation movements to spell out their needs and priority areas in relations to availability of funds in the hands of the UNDP in the coming 5 years.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES LETTERS FROM LEADERS

Papandreou Letter

LD100200 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] The leader of the revolution received a letter from Dr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek prime minister, in which he stressed the depth of the historic ties between the Libyan Arab and the Greek peoples. He expressed his conviction that the developing relations which exist between the two countries are based on strong links of long term joint cooperation. In his letter to the leader, he said that those relations developed [word indistinct] in an atmosphere of peace, security and freedom. Dr Papandreou expressed his confidence that the relations of cooperation existing between the two friendly countries will surpass their traditional boundaries to include effective cooperation between the two countries in ways that include the whole region.

Malagasy President's Message

LD092308 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] The leader of the revolution has received a message from Didier Ratsiraka, president of the Republic of Madagascar, denouncing, in the name of the revolution and the people of Madagascar, the U.S. imperialist conspiracies against the Jamahiriyah. He stressed that the enemy which has been carrying out provocations against the Libyan Arab people and treacherous aggression in the Gulf of Sidra is the same enemy which is watching Madagascar and its people. President Didier Ratsiraka confirmed the cohesion of the revolutionary forces in the face of U.S. imperialism and praised the Jamahiriyah's stand on the side of the people of the Seychelles in their confrontation of the abortive invasion attempt which was carried out by mercenaries from South Africa for the benefit of U.S. imperialism. President Didier Ratsiraka said that the stand was a true and positive expression of bolstering the struggle of peoples for their liberty.

MAURITANIA

SUPPORT EXPRESSED FOR ERITREAN PEOPLE'S FRONT

EA091600 Voice of Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrina 0430 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] An Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front [EPLF]delegation composed of EPLF representatives in Algeria and France has been given a warm reception by Mauritanian Government officials. At a banquet in honor of the delegation, the Dakhla district administrator and the Nouakchott mayor, on behalf of President Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala and the Mauritanian people, expressed support for the Eritrean people's just struggle and their right to self-determination.

The EPLF delegation expressed pleasure at their warm reception and the support expressed by the people and Government of Mauritania for the freedom struggle of the Eritrean people, led by the EPLF. The delegation also delivered a message from Comrade Romadan Muhammad Nur, EPLF secretary general, to Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala Mauritanian president and chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation.

SUDAN

TERRORISTS TRAINED FOR OPERATION AGAINST LIBYA

LD100950 Tripoli JANA in English 0857 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Dec (JANA) -- Sudanese authorities are presently training and preparing terrorist elements to carry out assassination operations and to plant explosives in Libya.

These elements are being trained in Wadi Sidna base north of Khartoum, under direct supervision and financing of Israel.

MINISTRY SAYS EMBASSIES BEING THREATENED

EA092106 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that extremist quarters, with the backing and support of the Libyan regime, are planning to strike at Sudanese targets abroad in accordance with what was discussed at their recent meeting in Vienna.

Our embassies in Bonn, Washington and Kuwait have received actual threats from these circles.

SUNA Report

JN091440 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Dec (SUNA) -- A responsible Foreign Ministry source told SUNA that extremist parties, backed and supported by the Libyan regime, according to a meeting held recently in Vienna, are preparing to strike at Sudanese targets abroad including our diplomatic missions.

SUNA has learned that our embassies in Bonn, Washington and Kuwait have indeed received threats from these parties.

The source added that the scheme also includes striking at the missions and properties of a fraternal state as well.

NUMAYRI RELEIVES ABU AL-QASIM HASHIM OF POSTS

JN091454 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Dec (SUNA) -- SSU Chairman President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri issued a decree today relieving Abu al-Qasim Hashim of his membership in the Political Bureau of the SSU Central Committee and of his post of deputy secretary of the Party Organizations Department.

Abu al-Qasim Hashim was one of the 25 May 1969 revolution officers and assumed several ministerial posts, in addition to his post as People's Assembly speaker for the second and third sessions which ended in 1979.

CHAD

KOUMAKOYE: EGYPT, SUDAN PLEDGE NOT TO AID FAN

AB081427 Paris AFP in English 1410 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 8 Dec (AFP) -- Egypt and Sudan have both pledged not to aid the rebel Chadian FAN led by former Defence Minister Hissein Habre, Chadian Justice Minister Kassire Koumakoye said here today.

Mr Koumakoye, who returned to Ndjamena last night from a tour of Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia, said that the Egyptian and Sudanese Governments would comply with an appeal by OAU Chairman Daniel arap Moi, the Kenyan president, to Chad's neighbours not to provide any form of direct or indirect aid to Chadian dissidents.

(Chadian officials have accused Sudan, supported by Egypt, of aiding the rebel FAN which operates in eastern Chad along the border with Sudan.)

He said that a normalisation process was underway among the three countries, and since the withdrawal from Chad of a Libyan expeditionary force nothing prevents these states (Egypt and Sudan) helping the Chadian Government to ensure stability and peace in Chad.

Mr Kuomakoye said that the Addis Ababa government was considering a request he delivered for Ethiopian soldiers to take part in the inter-African peace force for Chad.

NIGERIANS ARRIVE; OPERATIONAL ZONES GIVEN

AB081357 Paris AFP in French 1249 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 8 Dec (AFP) -- The first Nigerian contingent of the inter-African force, composed of two companies -- about 400 men -- arrived on Tuesday morning in Ati, central Chad, it was learned in Ndjamena from sources close to the commanding office of the neutral peacekeeping force.

In all, it is expected that the Nigerian contingent will comprise two battalions, about 2,000 men.

Monday afternoon, a C-130 Hercules of the Nigerian Air Force landed on the Ndjamena airport with about 20 men and two French-made armored vehicles of the AML type.

According to information from Nigerian military sources, other C-130's tried first on Monday to land directly in Ati, but the landing strip turned out to be difficult for this type of aircraft. It was not known on Tuesday morning on what planes these first Nigerian elements finally arrived in Ati on Tuesday.

The choice of Ati as the initial gathering place for the Lagos contingent confirms indications given on Monday afternoon by the Chadian defense minister, Adoum Togoi, on Radio Chad.

Togoi announced that the distribution of the operational zones for the various contingents of the neutral force will be established as follows:

Nigeria: in the Ouaddai, Biltine and Salamat (east and southeast region), with Abeche as its headquarters.

Zaire: in the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti (north), and especially in Faya.

Senegal: in the Guera and Batha (center), with Mongo as its headquarters.

The minister added that if the Beninese and Guinean contingents arrive, they will be given operational zones in the south and west. The participation of Benin and Guinea in the peacekeeping force is considered unlikely.

These various indications have not been confirmed from sources close to the commanding office of the inter-African force in Ndjamena.

DC-3 PROVIDED BY FRANCE ARRIVES IN NDJAMENA

AB081646 Paris AFP in French 1538 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, 8 Dec (AFP) -- The first DC-3 put at the disposal of the Chadian Government by France arrived at the military airfield in Ndjamena early this week, informed sources announced.

It will be followed by two other DC-3's of the French Naval Air Service, which are now at Garoua (northern Cameroon) waiting to be sent to the Chadian capital.

During a test flight carried out by Chadian pilots, the first plane suffered a generator breakdown. The Chadian Air Force is now in dire need of trained pilots and aircraft in good shape, the same sources say.

One of its two DC-4's has been idle with a motor breakdwon since 28 November while a Fokker-27, which Algerian technicians have repaired, remains on the ground due to lack of a Chadian crew trained on this type of plane.

AFP SAYS SITUATION IN EAST WORRYING GOVERNMENT

AB091410 Paris AFP in French 1238 GMT 9 Dec 81

[By AFP's special correspondent Jean-Paul Rodrigue]

[Text] Ndjamena, 9 Dec (AFP) -- The military situation of the government forces in eastern Chad is much more preoccupying than Chadian authorities are prepared to admit, according to the first independent reports on the fighting in that region.

Two French press photographers -- Jean-Claude Criton of the SYGMA news agency and Tanguy Loyzance of the MOBA news agency -- who have just spent about 2 to 3 weeks in the sector between Ati in the center of the country and Abeche in the east have told AFP about the current fighting there between the government forces and Hissein Habre's FAN.

According to their report, the government forces have suffered heavy losses since the capture of Abeche by the FAN on 19 November and the fall of Biltine a few days later. According to the two journalists, the government forces lost more than 100 men during the attack on the Abeche garrison alone. They explained the victims were mostly soldiers of Acyl Ahmat's Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR) and of the Integrated National Army (ANI) now under formation. They added that in Abeche the FAN captured an important quantity of arms and ammunition left behind by the Libyan troops after their withdrawal early in November.

At noon last Friday, according to the two journalists, Hissein Habre's soldiers chose the prayer time to launch an attack against a strong concentration of about 2,000 government troops who had assembled around a well situated at Kotoro-Falata, some 60 kilometers west of Abeche. Another operation was launched in the same sector the next morning.

According to the report, the two raids resulted in between 30 and 40 victims in the ranks of the ANI while several dozen men were wounded, some of them were evacuated to Ndjamena.

The FAN also suffered heavy losses; about 20 dead bodies were abandoned on the spot and two all-terrain vehicles were burned. Five FAN soldiers were taken prisoner, including a young boy of scarcely 12 years, one of the journalists expalined.

Last Sunday, the Chadian Government radio described the Kotoro-Falata battles as the start of a general offensive against Abeche by the ANI General Staff. Criton and Loyzance emphasized that many civilians have fled from Abeche and are now in the bush where they face particularly difficult living conditions. The nights are very cold in this season and food supply has become the more difficult because the millet harvest in the country's east and center is one of the worst in the past 15 years.

Finally, the two men indicated that a battalion of the Chadian Armed Forces, numbering about 1,300 men, sent as a reinforcement to Ati has not yet engaged in the fighting, all the weight of which the ANI and the CDR have borne alone up until now.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES CABINET RESHUFFLE 7 DEC

AB081315 Malabo Domestic Service in Spanish 0600 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Because of administrative shortcomings recently observed in the state machinery, the government of the Supreme Military Council, to effect a coherent ministerial reshuffle to correspond with the current exigencies [words indistinct] has decided:

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President--Decree No 157-1981 of 7 December ordering the removal of Lt Cdr Maye Ela from the post of first vice president of the Supreme Military Council. To ensure better administrative operation, I hereby order the removal of Lt Cdr Florencio Maye Ela from the post of vice president of the Supreme Military Council, while thanking him for services rendered, by virtue of this decree issued by me in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President--Decree No 158-1981 of 7 December ordering the removal of Cdr Eulogio Oyo Riquesa from the post of second vice president of the Supreme Military Council, while thanking him for services rendered, by virtue of this decree issued by me in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President--Decree No 159-1981 of 7 December ordering the removal of Lt Cdr Florencio Maye Ela from the post of commissioner of state for external affairs. To ensure better administrative operation, I hereby order the removal of Lt Cdr Florencio Maye Ela from the post of commissioner of state for external affairs by virture of this decree issued by me in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President--Decree No 160-1981 of 7 December ordering the removal of 2d Lt Marcos Mba Ondo from the post of commissioner of state for finance. To ensure better administrative operation, I hereby order the removal of 2d Lt Marcos Mba Ondo from the post of commissioner of state for finance, while thanking him for services rendered, by virtue of this decree issued by me in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President -- Decree No 161-1981 of 7 December ordering the removal of Lt Policarpo Mansu Mba from the post of commissioner of state for justice. To ensure better administrative operation, I hereby order the removal of Lt Policarpo Mansu Mba from the post of commissioner of state for justice, while thanking him for services rendered, by virtue of this decree issued by me in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President -- Decree No 162-1981 of 7 December ordering the removal of Capt Felix Mba Ondo Nchama from the post of commissioner of state for interior. To ensure better administrative operation, I hereby order the removal of Capt Felix Mba Ondo Nchama from the post of commissioner of state for interior, while thanking him for services rendered, by virtue of this decree issued by me in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President -- Decree No 163-1981 of 7 December ordering the removal of Lt Tarsicio Mane Abeso from the post of commissioner of state for education and culture. To ensure better administrative operation, I hereby order the removal of Lt Tarsicio Mane Abeso from the post of commissioner of state for education and culture, while thanking him for services rendered, by virtue of this decree issued by me in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President -- Decree No 164-1981 of 7 December ordering the removal of Lt Luciano Ndjang Mba from the post of commissioner of state for industry and energy. To ensure better administrative operation, I hereby order the removal of Lt Luciano Ndjang Mba from the post of commissioner of state for industry and energy, while thanking him for services rendered, by virtue of this decree issued by me in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President -- Decree No 165-1981 of 7 December ordering the removal of 2d Lt Carmelo Owono Ndgong Andeme from the post of commissioner of state for economic development, planning and cooperation. To ensure better administrative operation, I hereby order the removal of 2d Lt Carmelo Owono Ndgono Andeme from the post of commissioner of state for economic development, planning and cooperation, while thanking him for services rendered, by virtue of this decree issued by me in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Because of the administrative shortcomings recently observed in the state machinery, the government of the Supreme Military Council, to effect a coherent ministerial reshuffle to correspond to the current needs and exigencies [words indistinct], has decided:

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President -- Decree No 204-1981 of 7 December appointing Capt Cristino Seriche Bioko second vice president of the Supreme Military Council. Considering the qualities that Capt Cristino Seriche Bioko combines, I appoint him second vice president of the Supreme Military Council by virtue of this decree issued in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President -- Decree No 205-1981 of 7 December appointing 2d Lt Marcos Mba Ondo commissioner of state for external affairs. Considering the qualities that 2d Lt Marcos Mba Ondo combines, I appoint him commissioner of state for external affairs by virtue of this decree issued in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President -- Decree No 206-1981 of 7 December appointing accountant Andres (Oyo) Ibasa commissioner of state for finance. Considering the qualities that accountant Andres (Oyo) Ibasa combines, I appoint him commissioner of state for finance by virtue of this decree issued in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President -- Decree No 207-1981 of 7 December appointing Attorney Alfredo Tomas y Tomas commissioner of state for justice. Considering the qualities that Attorney Alfredo Tomas y Tomas combines, I appoint him commissioner of state for justice by virtue of this decree issued in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President -- Decree No 208-1981 of 7 December appointing 2d Lt Felipe (Ogono Manyana) commissioner of state for interior. Considering the qualities that 2d Lt Felipe (Ogono Manyana) combines, I appoint him commissioner of state for interior by virtue of this decree issued in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council. [passage indistinct]

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President -- Decree No 213-1981 of 7 December appointing 2d Lt Gregorio Micha Ela (Obono) commissioner of state for youth and sports. Considering the qualities that 2d Lt Gregorio Micha Ela (Obono) combines, I appoint him commissioner of state for youth and sports by virtue of this decree issued in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President -- Decree No 214-1981 of 7 December appointing Capt Celestino (Manzago Nsi) commissioner of state for post and telecommunications. Considering the qualities that Capt Celestino (Manzago Nsi) combines, I have appointed him commissioner of state for post and telecommunications by virtue of this decree issued in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Supreme Military Council, Office of the President -- Decree No 215-1981 of 7 December appointing Lt Pablo (Nsue Obama Nguema) commissioner of state for commerce. Considering the qualities that Lt Pablo (Nsue Obama Nguema) combines, I appoint him commissioner of state for commerce by virtue of this decree issued in Malabo on 7 December 1981. For a better Equatorial Guinea, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council.

Further Report

AB091011 Malabo Domestic Service in Spanish 0600 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] The president of the Supreme Military Council, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, has carried out a ministerial reshuffle affecting most of the ministries. In this ministerial reshuffle, only the commissioner of state for agriculture, livestock and fisheries and the commissioner of state for information and tourism, Buale Borico and (?Mimo Iya Ndele), retain their portfolios.

The commissioners of state for external affairs and interior have been appointed ambassadors abroad. Florencio Maye Ela, who held the post of first vice president and commissioner of state for external affairs, has been appointed Equatorial Guinea's ambassador to the United Nations while Felix Mba Ondo Nchama, former commissioner of state for interior, has been appointed ambassador to the OAU.

The present government headed by President Obiang Nguema Mbazogo is composed of the following:

Second vice president and commissioner for health:	Christino Seriche Bioko
Commissioner of state in the Office of the President:	Carmelo Owono Ndgono Andeme
Commissioner for external affairs:	Marcos Mba Ondo
Commissioner for interior:	Felipe (Ogono Manyana)
Commissioner for education and culture:	Leandro (Ngomio Nze)
Commissioner for finance:	Andres (Nzo Ibasa)
Commissioner for agriculture, livestock and fisheries:	Emiliano Buale Borico
Commissioner for public works, housing, urban affairs and transport:	Luciano Ndjang Mba
Commissioner for planning economic development and cooperation:	Federico (Mesa Nkongo)
Commissioner for industry and energy:	Eduardo (Mansuy Mba)
Commissioner for information and tourism:	[name indistinct]
Commissioner for post and telecommunications:	Celestino (Manzogo Nsi)
Commissioner for Labor:	Eulogio Oyo Riquesa
Commissioner for commerce:	Pablo (Nsolo Mbama Nyang
Commissioner for justice:	Alfredo Tomas y Tomas
Commissioner for youth and sports:	Gregorio Micha Ela

CAPE VERDE

PEREIRA, PORTUGAL'S EANES HOLD MEETING

LD060710 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 0000 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Text] During a stopover at Sal Island, Ramalho Eanes had a meeting with President Aristides Pereira. Afterward, the two presidents held a news conference. Armando Pires reports:

The president of the Republic of Cape Verde stated this evening at Sal airport that President Ramalho Eanes' stopover is a symbol of the political will that forms the relations between the two countries and of the wish to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between the two peoples.

Ramalho Eanes and Aristides Pereira met for 3 hours at the Cape Verdean president's official residence. They exchanged views on the situation in southern Africa, namely, on the problems of Namibia and Angola.

Ramalho Eanes is understood to have briefed Aristides Pereira on the results of his tour of three frontline states.

Speaking here at the airport, Aristides Pereira said Ramalho Eanes' visit to Mozambique was a major landmark not only in the relations between Lisbon and Maputo but especially in those between Portugal and the whole of Africa.

Toward the end of his statements Aristides Pereira mentioned his country's economic situation, which is marked by a serious drought affecting the entire economy and, naturally, agriculture in particular. He also made a direct reference to internal enemies who, he said, are attempting to prevent the reconstruction of his country.

In his brief statements thanking Aristides Pereira, Ramalho Eanes said cooperation between Portugal and Cape Verde continues to reflect and to further the friendship that unites the two peoples in the interests of both.

DEFENSE MINISTER LEAVES ON VISIT TO SFRY

AB081907 Paris AFP in French 1809 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Praia, 8 Dec (AFP) -- Cape Verdian Defense Minister Honorio Chantre left Praia on Tuesday for Belgrade on an official visit at the invitation of his Yugoslav counterpart, Gen Nicola Ljubicic, it was learned in the Cape Verdian capital.

The same sources say the minister particularly is interested in the Yugoslav experience of a generalized popular defense system. Honorio Chantre is bearer of a message from Cape Verdian head of state Aristides Pereira to the Yugoslav president, it is reported.

GHANA

PRESIDENT LIMANN RECEIVES PRC'S HUANG HUA

AB041847 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Dec 81

[Text] The president, Dr Limann, today called on Third World countries to pool their resources toward the elimination of hunger, poverty and disease. Receiving the Chinese vice premier and foreign minister, Huang Hua, at the castle, President Limann said if developing countries failed to work together they would not achieve much in serving the interest of their peoples.

Dr Limann said his government places a lot of emphasis on cooperation among developing countries. He thanked the Chinese Government for its assistance to Ghana's agricultural development.

Earlier, Mr Huang had called on Third World countries to work together for a new international economic order. He said existing world economic arrangements were obstacles to the rapid development of Third World countries. Mr Huang pledged China's support for Ghana's development. He added he sees a bright future for the country because it is endowed with rich natural resources.

Cultural Agreement Signed

AB041849 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Dec 81

[Summary] Ghana and China today signed a cultural agreement in Accra to give effect to existing cultural cooperation between the two countries. The Chinese vice premier signed for his country while the sports and culture minister initialed it for Ghana. The agreement, which is renewable after every 5 years, covers training programs and the exchange of experience and facilities in the fields of culture and sports, education, science and medicine.

GRAPHIC Comments

AB050624 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Dec 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The GRAPHIC looks at Ghana-China friendship in the light of the visit to Accra by an eight-man Chinese delegation. The leader of the delegation is the vice premier and former ambassador to Ghana, Mr Huang Hua. The GRAPHIC says the visit is timely in that it coincides with China's exhibition of unflinching solidarity with Africa and the Third World for supporting their sponsored candidate for the post of UN secretary general.

While the Trans-Zamb railway is a classic example of increased Chinese aid (?elsewhere) on the African continent, in Ghana the GRAPHIC recalls the involvement of Chinese technicians in the textile industry and in irrigation projects. The paper notes that this glorious era of close colaboration between Africans and Chinese appears to have lapsed with the lowering of the curtain on China's self-reliance policy. This is why the paper sees the visit of Mr Huang Hua as opportune for the assurance he is expected to give to Africans about China's continuing cooperation with them.

DEFENSE MINISTER REMINDS MILITARY OF ROLE

AB050758 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 5 Dec 81

[Text] The minister of defense, Mr Riley-Poku, has reminded the Ghana Armed Froces of their cardinal role of protection and defense against the overthrow of the Constitution. Any attempt, therefore, to abolish the constitutional order as established should be resisted. He was addressing officers and men at the Kumasi garrison yesterday. Mr Riley-Poku therefore asked the authorities of his ministry to ensure that the armed forces live up to the ideals for which they were set up.

He commended the armed forces for their brilliant performance in areas of international peacekeeping and the role in seeking to provide international guarantees for the country's independence, identity and continued progress. The minister, however, observed that recruitment of persons required for employment by the forces has not been carried out with the care that it deserves. Even after recruitment, the institution has kept in its ranks, soldiers who have failed to make the mark as good soldiers.

On the economy, Mr. Riley-Poku said the Ghanaian thinks more of what he can get out of the national wealth than what contribution he can make to the development of the nation. The overall result is the economically dangerous situation in which the people now find themselves.

NIGERIA

SHAGARI DISCUSSES CHAD FORCE, SUCCESSION ISSUE

AB030813 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Text] President Shehu Shagari has urged Nigerian journalists to promote and protect the nation's image. He made the call in Lagos yesterday at a luncheon he hosted for top media executives and members of the Nigerian Press Organization.

The president stressed the need for all journalists to endeavor to suppress their prejudices and put the interest of the nation first at all times in their publications. He pledged the Federal Government will do everything possible to promote better understanding between it and the news media.

President Shehu Shagari also commented on the report that some quantity of weeds, suspected to be Indian hemp, was found in a Nigerian diplomatic bag in London. He confirmed the incident and said that an international inquiry has been instituted to look into the matter. The president was sure that the plan was organized by a syndicate who used the loopholes in the sending of diplomatic bags, to carry out its acts.

On the funding of the peacekeeping force in Chad, President Shehu Shagari said that in principle, the OAU was to be responsible for financing the troops. He remarked however that it was not easy for the organization to muster enough funds to carry out its obligations, adding that this was why the first attempt to send troops to Chad failed. The president stated that though the countries contributing troops to the peacekeeping operations are expected to bear the initial burden, it was up to the OAU and the United Nations to help those countries which could not meet the initial expenses. He said that other OAU members who were not sending troops should also be able to help these countries, adding that since the operation was an OAU affair, every country regarded the burden as temporary, because the organization will eventually foot the bill.

On the appointment of ministers, President Shehu Shagari stated that a list of nominees for appointment is being compiled for consideration by the Senate. He said after the approval of the ministers by the Senate, he would reshuffle his Cabinet. President Shehu Shagari explained that if it was the wish of his party to renominate him, he would stand for reelection in 1983. He however added that he was persuaded to stand for the 1979 presidential election although he had wished to be a senator. The president said he saw his present position as a national and personal sacrifice in spite of the inconveniences involved.

PRC'S HUANG HUA STOPS IN LAGOS EN ROUTE HOME

AB070749 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] The Chinese vice premier, Mr Huang Hua, and his wife Liliang stopped over in Lagos last night on their way home from Accra, Ghana. They were met at the Murtala Muhammed Airport by the vice president, Dr Alex Ekweme, and his wife Beatrice. It will be recalled that Mr Hua was in Nigeria 3 weeks ago on an official visit. At the end of the visit, both he and his wife and Dr Ekweme visited Guinea to take part in the celebrations marking that country's success over imperialist forces.

Dr Ekweme observed that Nigeria was the first country the vice premier visited during his African tour and also the last country in which he stopped over before returning home. They discussed the vice premier's tour to Nigeria, Guinea, Senegal and Ghana.

PARTY LEADERS SEE NEED FOR POLITICAL REALIGNMENT

AB041140 Lagos NAN in English 1125 GMT 4 Dec 81

[Text] Jos, 4 Dec (NAN) -- Leaders of three political parties -- the GNPP [Great Nigeria People's Party], NPP [Nigerian People's Party] and the Imoudu faction of the PRP [People's Redemption Party] -- have stressed the need for the realignment of political parties in the country to ensure peace, unity and progress.

In a communique issued on Wednesday at the end of their two-day meeting held in Jos, Plateau state, the party leaders said that such a realignment was imperative in view of the current political situation in the country.

The communique stated that the nature and actual time of the political realignment was a matter of mutual discussion and agreement among the four parties. It agreed that a summit of the four party leaders and their governors should be a continuous affair as it was certain to enhance understanding and cooperation among the parties.

The communique regretted the unavoidable absence of the national leader of the UPN [Unity Party of Nigeria], Chief Obafemi Awolowo, and the governors of the five UPN-controlled states. It however expressed satisfaction with Chief Awolowo's message to the meeting and the apology sent by the Gongola state governor, Alhaji Abubakar Barde, for his inability to attend the summit.

ARMORED COMMANDER PLEASED AT PEACE IN KANO

AB041205 Lagos NAN in English 1143 GMT 4 Dec 81

[By John Elaigu]

[Text] Kano, 4 Dec (NAN) -- The deputy governor of Kano state, Alhaji Abdu Dawakin Tofa, said in Kano yesterday that the state government would do its best to make the officers and men of the Third Mechanized Brigade of the Nigerian Army comfortable.

Alhaji Abdu gave the assurance when the general officer commanding (GOC) of the One Mechanized Division of the Nigerian Army, Brigadier A. F. Aduloju, called on him at Government House. The deputy governor expressed satisfaction with the army-civilian relationship with the state and called for continued understanding among the officers and state government functionaries with a view to removing any red-tapism.

In his speech, Brigadier Aduloju expressed delight at the peace the state was enjoying after the last disturbances in the state capital. He urged the state government to relay sensitive issues to him through the commander of the Third Mechanized Brigade without any delay.

Brigadier Aduloju appealed to the state government to supply water to the new army brigade in the capital.

The GOC who was accompanied by some senior army officers was on a familiarization tour of brigades under the division.

SENEGAL

SENEGAL REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE CISKEI INDEPENDENCE

AB091404 Paris AFP in French 1223 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Dakar, 9 Dec (AFP) -- Senegal refuses to acknowledge the formal independence that South Africa has just granted the Bantustan of Ciskei, said Abdou Diouf, Senegalese head of state, before the Senegalese Cabinet, according to an official communique issued in Dakar on Wednesday.

The president further reaffirms, the communique adds, the Senegalese Government's condemnation of South Africa's Bantustan policy, based on the system of apartheid which Senegal opposes.

According to the communique, this stand is in keeping with Senegal's usual opposition to the South African political regime based on racism, apartheid and the denial of human rights.

PEOPLE'S PARTY GRANTED LEGAL RECOGNITION

AB071537 Paris AFP in French 1338 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] Dakar, 7 Dec (AFP) -- The Senegalese People's Party (PPS) has been granted legal recognition and, therefore, becomes the 11th Senegalese political party.

According to its statutes, the new party, which has no ideology, has as its main objective the restructuring of Senegalese society on a new and scientific basis.

The PPS is the seventh political party to be recognized since the institution last May of an unrestricted multiparty system in Senegal. Before then, the Constitution limited the number of political parties to four.

TOGO

SOURCES DENY COUNTRY FAVORS HABRE IN CHAD

AB091254 Paris AFP in French 1213 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Lome, 9 Dec (AFP) -- Togo has never taken a stand in favor of Hissein Habre, leader of the FAN, said well-informed sources in Lome, which have described as unfounded reports from Ndjamena to the contrary.

Togo, they explained, has never taken a stand in favor of any of the Chadian factions but has, on the contrary, always worked in favor of permanent peace in Chad without excluding the possibility of finding political solutions in conformity with the Lagos accords signed by all the Chadian factions in August 1979. The informed sources said this explanation is the result of the Chadian authorities' request that Togo should not send a contingent to Chad within the framework of the neutral African peacekeeping force. The same sources observed that Togo never proposed sending a contingent to Chad. They stressed that General Eyadema agreed that Togo should participate in the peacekeeping force after a request by the current OAU Chairman Daniel arap Moi and by the Chadian authorities during the Paris African summit last September.

The sources finally recalled that 10 days ago, Togo signed the Nairobi agreement on the timetable and ways and means of dispatching the troops of the six countries -- Benin, Guinea, Nigeria, Zaire, Senegal and Togo -- which are to form the peacekeeping force for Chad.

ANGOLA

FOREIGN MINISTER ISSUES WARNING TO SOUTH AFRICA

AB091926 Paris AFP in English 1816 GMT 9 Dec 81

[By Marie Joannidis]

[Text] Luanda, 9 Dec (AFP) -- Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge warned today that South Africa's continued policy of aggression could jeopardise negotiations currently under way to settle the Namibian problem. The purpose of the war (against the Southwest Africa Peoples Organization) could lead to an internationalising of the conflict, Mr Jorge said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. He said that his government considered that [words indistinct] Africa's intention in invading southern Angola [illegible]st August, and for this reason Cuban troops in Angola had not intervened. The government had taken into account the capabilities of the Angolan Armed Forces -- we have a trained army and officers skilled in handling the military equipment which we possess, Mr Jorge said -- and decided its troops alone would defend the country.

Angola thought the wisest course was to increase efforts towards peace, but this did not mean that Luanda would accept any solution and any situation, Mr Jorge said. He feared that the South Africans by their incursions were aiming to destroy our country under the pretext of attacking SWAPO bases which did not in fact exist in Angola. There are only refugee camps, Mr Jorge said. Luanda wondered if the South African attacks -- aimed at destabilising Angola and collapsing its economy -- were solely Pretoria's idea or had a wider origin, and came to the conclusion they were part of the imperialist strategy led by the United States, Mr Jorge said. Angola failed to understand how the five-nation Western contact group -- Britian, Canada, France, the U.S. and West Germany -- which had full relations with Pretoria and were apparently anxious to find a solution to the Namibian question, had not succeeded in stopping South Africa, he added.

The Angolan Government had not commented on South Africa's announcement last Monday of its latest raid across the border because Pretoria was only confirming an operation which it had denied a month ago, Mr Jorge said. This shows not only the nature of the regime but is proof that when we talk of attacks, violations and bombing we are reflecting what is happening, because we think it is wrong to deceive people. Mr Jorge said the constitutional principles drawn up by the contact group as the first phase of a Namibian independence settlement could speed up a solution and create a climate of confidence.

SWAPO and the southern African frontline states -- Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania. Zambia and Zimbabwe -- had made modifications to some of the principles suggested by the five, Mr Jorge said. Up to now we have had no reaction from the five, and South Africa has increased its intransigence and its attacks.

If the negotiations failed because of Pretoria, the competent international bodies must face up to their responsibilities and adopt concrete and effective measures, Mr Jorge said. In this case the group of five will have to play a determining role or the war will continue with disastrous consequences.

Asked about Angola's greater dependence on its allies in the socialist bloc, Mr Jorge admitted: This war situation is causing serious economic and social problems. But he added, I see no risk of becoming more dependent. We have preferential relations with the communist countries of the socialist bloc, but one of the main planks of our foreign policy is diversification of our economic, technical and scientific cooperation.

(?On the trip to Washington) of Jonas Savimbi, the leader of the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) which is fighting a guerrilla war against the Angolan Government, Mr Jorge said it just proves that the U.S. was supporting these puppets. Since the beginning of the year the Reagan administration had been trying to repeal the Clark amendment banning aid to Angolan opposition movements to leave its hands free to support those who can serve it, Mr Jorge said.